MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JUNE 1985

Hostage Crisis

The French Embassy in Beirut has accepted Amal movement leader Nabih Birri's proposal that it receive the U.S. hostages, KUNA reported. Birri's suggestion, announced at a 26 June news conference reported by Beirut radio, is for the hostages to be transferred to a foreign embassy in West Beirut if the government of that embassy pledges not to release them before Israel frees the detainees in 'Atlit. If the United States does not accept this offer, Birri added, Amal proposes that the hostages be moved to a "fraternal or friendly" state like Syria or Iran, subject to the same conditions for their release. Two kidnapped French journalists will be released with the U.S. hostages when Israel releases its Lebanese detainees, he said. Birri also announced the release of one of the hostages on the advice of a medical report from the International Red Cross, which visited the hostages overnight. The Shi'ite leader described U.S. threats to close Beirut airport as "not serious," but he called on the United States to pledge that there will be "no aggression against innocent people" after the hostage crisis is settled, and to keep its fleet 12 miles away from the Lebanese coast.

Amal had earlier warned that it will return the hostages to the hijackers if the United States takes measures to close Beirut airport and blockade the country, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, Syria sent messages to Birri in an attempt to hasten the hostages' release, according to sources close to Amal cited by AFP. In Israel, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that his country will consider positively any U.S. request for Israeli participation in a blockade of Beirut Airport, Jerusalem radio reported, but senior political sources predicted that the United States will try to avoid any such cooperation with Israel and will attempt to seek a diplomatic solution in cooperation with Syria.

Iraq-Libya

Iraq broke diplomatic relations with Libya 26 June, announcing in an official statement carried by INA that it has withdrawn recognition of Libya as an Arab regime and as an Arab League member, and that it has decided to withdraw its diplomatic mission from Tripoli and to ask the Libyan mission to leave Baghdad.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes dealt "an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near Khark Island" at 2015 GMT 25 June, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement carried by INA.

Syria and the PNSF

Syria supports the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) and is working to strengthen its military capabilities, President Hafiz al-Asad told a PNSF delegation in remarks reported by Damascus radio. The Syrian leader stressed the importance of cohesion between the PNSF and Lebanese groups.

PLO Affairs; Arab Summit

A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation flew to Rome 25 June to begin a tour of Italy and France aimed at explaining the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad the same day, INA noted, announcing earlier in remarks reported by Amman television that the PLO has been in constant contact with Jordan's King Husayn to provide the "appropriate atmosphere" for convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible. However, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil reaffirmed Lebanon's opposition to a summit on the Palestinian camps issue during a conversation with the Moroccan ambassador reported by Beirut radio. Lebanon regards the camps issue as a purely internal affair, Al-Jumayyil stated, and it will only participate in a summit that holds a comprehensive discussion of the problems of the area, including the Lebanese problem. For Syria's part, Damascus radio denounced the proposed summit as an attempt to seek Arab backing for the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement. On the other hand, Riyadh radio welcomed the proposal for an emergency summit in a 24 June commentary.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech — Arab leaders must take a "courageous" stand and unite to "chase terrorism until it retreats and disappears," President Husni Mubarak asserted in a speech broadcast by Cairo radio. Egypt will not stand idly by in this respect, he said, but will "move to the forefront and take the initiative." Warning that there are forces which want to hurt Egypt by exploiting certain sects in the country, he said the Egyptian authorities will not be lenient in confronting any trend that seeks to forcibly impose its "ideas, whims, or schemes" on the people.

Sudan

A scheduled meeting between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) high command and a special government delegation failed to materialize because the latter did not show up at the arranged time and place, an SPLA spokesman announced in a statement reported by the clandestine SPLA radio. The spokesman viewed the government's conduct as evidence of its lack of interest in any dialogue with the SPLA despite its talk of peace and negotiations. On the military situation in the south, the radio claimed that the SPLA destroyed two Nile steamers carrying government troops 23 June, and that SPLA units are on the verge of capturing Bor, a town in the southern Upper Nile area.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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PLO Issues Statement on Amal Role in Lebanon

GF251802 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Statement issued by the PLO on Amal role in southern Lebanon — date not given]

[Text] Since the Israeli occupation troops began to withdraw from southern Lebanon and Al-Biqa' within the framework of a redeployment plan and concentration along the border, and since these troops withdrew from Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah and handed them over to the militias of the Amal movement in accordance with the official military evacuation and as part of the Al-Naqurah negotiations and the Camp "Murphy" accord, the Amal militias have been acting as frontier guards in a way similar to that imposed by the Israeli occupiers in order to protect the enemy borders and ensure the security of its entity against attacks by our heroes from the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces.

On the basis of this official military and security agreement with the enemy, the Amal militias are imposing a military siege on the Palestinian refugee camps and the national Lebanese areas. In cooperation with the Lahd agent militias, they are carrying out acts of terrorism and arresting our Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Yesterday, the Palestinian refugee camps and the national Lebanese areas in the south witnessed a new escalation of terrorism against the masses of our people and against their camps by these gangs. These gangs launched new attacks against (Al-Bast), Al-Rashidiyah, Al-Burj al-Shamali, Burj Rahal, and Al-Khatimiyah refugee camps, and carried out search operations similar to those carried out by the Israeli troops before withdrawing from these areas and before transferring these security tasks to the Amal militias. These militias also besieged a military unit of the joint forces in (Al-Bazuriyah) area which was going to carry out an operation against the Zionist enemy, thus repeating the same Israeli barbaric operation against this national area.

The PLO is throwing light on the dangerous role of the Amal movement in the south, Beirut and all Lebanon fully backed by an Arab regime. It calls on the masses of our Arab nation and its national forces to expose and confront this conspiracy which is being carried out by these agent tools in favor of the Israeli-U.S. design in the region.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Departs Amman 25 June

JN251919 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat left Amman today following a few days visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior Jordanian officials. Mr 'Arafat told the Jordan news agency, PETRA, prior to his departure that the PLO was in constant contact with his majesty the king to provide the appropriate atmosphere for convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible. He said that there were minor obstacles that would hopefully be overcome during the next few days.

The PLO chairman was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Sami Jawdah and a number of members of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

Comments Before Departure

JN252056 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening after a working visit to Jordan that lasted several days.

Replying to a question, 'Arafat said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which left for Italy and France today will meet with senior Italian officials tomorrow and with French officials the day after tomorrow. He also said that the delegation's visit to Italy is due to the fact that Italy is the current chairman of the EEC, which has announced its support for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He added: There is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian agenda, which will not be restricted to visits, but will expand to encompass new spheres. He added: I discussed these spheres with His Majesty King Hsuayn during my meetings with him.

Asked about the Lebanese security forces' entry into the Palestinian camps today, 'Arafat said: We in the PLO have never been against the extension of Lebanese authority to Lebanon's territories, but we have joint agreements with the Lebanese authority and we hope that all parties will abide by these agreements. He added: These agreements were approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the Arab summit conferences. We in the PLO are with Lebanon's unity — people and land — and with its security, independence, and stability. Proceeding from this, I confirmed to the Lebanese president and prime minister when I met them at the nonalighed summit in New Delhi the PLO's readiness to provide every means to guarantee Lebanon's unity and independence and to prevent its partitioning, because any attempt to partition Lebanon is considered a crime at the Arab, pan-Arab, religious, and patriotic levels. He was seen off at the Amman civilian airport by Sami Jawdah, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, and a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

'Arafat Phones YAR, Saudi Officials 25 June

JN251800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Amman, 25 Jun (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today telephoned YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Official sources said here that during these telephone conversations 'Arafat briefed the Arab officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and the efforts being exerted to hold an emergency Arab summit conference on the Palestine question and the camps situation.

It is noteworthy that 'Arafat is currently on a visit of several days to Jordan.

DFLP's Hawatimah Makes Statement on Beirut Camps

LD252001 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic front for the Liberation of Palestine, left Algeria today following a visit during which he held a number of contacts with Algerian officials on the present situation in the Middle East.

At Houari Boumediene International Airport he made a statement to the national press in which he demanded the lifting of the seige from around the Palestinian camps in Beirut and that the cease-fire agreement be respected. Following is the text of his statement:

[Begin Hawatimah recording][Words indistinct]and Amal is still placing daily obstacles and obstructions in the face of implementing the agreement to lift the seige from around the camps. Moreover, large numbers of the sons of the camps of Palestinian fighters are still being held by the Amal movement and the (?Shi'ite) Lebanese army, foremost Salih Zaydan, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and many of the cadres of the Palestinian revolution. We see with complete clarity that maintaining tension is part of the preparation for fresh major military and political operations against the Palestinian camps in Beirut, and possibly against the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, even in the north of Lebanon.

The Amal movement's plan and that of the (?Shi'ite) Lebanese army, and those who are behind them, is to try to dislodge the Palestinian camps in the hope of shutting everything in the face of the sons of Palestine and the Palestinian resistance in Beirut and in southern Lebanon, according to higher arrangements to impose a separate bilateral solution between Lebanon and Israel, based on closing southern Lebanon to all forms of national resistance and to turn the Amal movement and the (?Shi'ite) Lebanese army into border guards for the state of the Zionist enemy, and, at the same time, based on finding sectarian solutions for the Lebanese internal conditions in harmony with narrow sectarian interests, which conflict with the supreme and broad interests of the Lebanese people for a democratic solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The people of Palestine and their revolution once again stress that the protection of the Palestinian camps is a joint patriotic and Arab duty; we must not permit a repetition of the wars of annihilation against these camps. This essentially demands strengthening the steadfastness of these camps, enabling them to survive, to live, and to repulse the aggressors. It essentially demands foiling the higher political schemes which seek to impose separate bilateral solutions and deals on Lebanon, in preparation to move toward speeding up the separate bilateral solutions in the M dle East region. From this point we continuously (?said) that we welcome the positive aspect of this agreement, which insists on a cease-fire and a lifting of the seige around the camps, thereby enabling the sons of our people to exercise their right to struggle.

At the same time we underline the dangers which the Amal movement and the (?Shi'ite) Lebanese army pose to the Palestinian camps, and we underline the danger of the maneuvers which are aimed at trying to split the Palestinian national line of unity in the field, baptised with joint Palestinian blood. We consider that what has happened to the camps teaches us a fundamental lesson: the necessity for speedy work to complete the unity of the PLO on a national basis, opposed to all forms of capitulation and defeatist solutions, and in return to firmly cling to the program of the liberation organization — the right of the Palestinian people to return, to self-determination, to an independent state, the right of the PLO to independently represent the people of Palestine — and the right of all Arab peoples to seek an international conference to debate the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question, a conference that would fulfil Palestinian and Arab rights.

The present struggle necessarily demands firm adherence to the program of the liberation organization, and to the resolutions of the 16th session of the Palestine National Council, held in Algeria in February 1983, and the Algiers-Aden agreement between the Democratic Alliance and Fatah organization, in order that the unity of the PLO with a national solution is realized. [End recording]

PLO's Khalaf on Siege of Palestinian Camps

JN221800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 22 Jun 85

["Text" of statement by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf to AFP on 21 June; place not specified — read by announcer]

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has appealed to friendly countries, particularly the USSR, to act in order to stop the criminal actions against the Palestinian people by the agent Amal movement and the Lebanese Army forces. He said that the Arabs and their friends must move before it is too late.

In a contact with AFP yesterday, Brother Abu Iyad stressed that Amal and the Lebanese Army have continued, since the signing of what has been called the Damascus agreement, their siege of the Palestinian camps in Beirut and prevented food supplies from entering the camps, declaring that the siege will not be lifted until the camps are disarmed. He said that the Amal has besieged the Beirut hospital to which the Red Cross evacuated a number of wounded from the Burj al-Barajinah camp. He added that the Amal movement arrested a large number of these wounded.

Brother Abu Iyad said that Nabih Birri and his movement claim they are challenging U.S. imperialism. He added: We wonder if imperialism can be fought by disarming the camps and continuing the fascist actions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Is the hijacking of the [TWA] plane a cover for the continued crimes against our people and camps?

Brother Abu Iyad called on Arab and international organizations and Arab, Islamic, friendly, and nonaligned states to condemn the criminal acts against the Palestinian people. He held the Syrian authorities and the Lebanese official authorities respon-

sible for what is taking place against the Palestinian camps in Beirut. The following is the text of the statement:

Since the signing of what has been called the Damascus agreement, the Amal movement and the 6th Brigade have been besieging the camps and blocking food supplies. They say that the siege cannot be lifted until the camps are disarmed. This means that the conspiracy is continuing. What is required is that we lay down weapons so that the hideous crime from which the camps and our Palestinian and Lebanese people have been suffering for 5 weeks can continue.

After the International Red Cross evacuated the wounded from the Burj al-Barajinah camp to the Beirut hospital, the Amal movement besieged the hospital and asked for the names of the wounded in accordance with orders from the Syrian intelligence service. It arrested a large number of the wounded, who have been transferred to the Amal movement's centers, where there is joint investigation by the Amal movement and the Syrian intelligence service.

The Amal movement and the 6th Brigade have also prevented the International Red Cross from evacuating more than 150 wounded from the Shatila camp to force it to capitulate. We consider this criminal act by the Amal movement, the Syrian intelligence service, and the 6th Brigade, and the continuation of the siege of the camps, as a slap in the face of the Damascus agreement. The objective is to destroy the camps, disarm the Palestinian people, and liquidate the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon. [Words indistinct] we wonder if fighting imperialism can be achieved through disarming the camps and continuing the fascist acts against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Is the hijacking of the plane a cover for the continued crimes against our camps and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples?

We appeal to Arab and international organizations, friendly countries, particularly the USSR, and Islamic and nonaligned states to act in order to stop these actions against the Palestinian people's existence and to condemn these criminal acts against our Palestinian people. We also hold the Syrian authorities and the official Lebanese authorities, represented by President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami, responsible for what is taking place in the arena. We say frankly that it is time for the Arabs and their friends to move before it is too late.

Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation Leaves for Rome

JN251411 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali left Amman this afternoon on a tour during which the delegation will visit both Italy and France in order to explain the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that is aimed at finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question.

In a statement to journalists at Queen Alia Airport, the deputy prime minister said that this is the delegation's second visit since the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was signed last February. The agreement affirms the need to move on all levels in various countries. He added that the objective of the delegation's tours, which began in the PRC, is to explain the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the broad outlines toward finding a just political solution to the Palestine question. He said that in the second leg of the tour, in the French capital, the delegation's mission will be to explain the Jordanian-Palestinian stand toward the proposed political solutions and to bolster the trend toward establishing a just peace, especially since there is an opportunity to pool international efforts in order to pressure the United States and Israel to take steps toward achieving peace. The deputy prime minister pointed out that the third stage of the delegation's activities will be to visit the United Kingdom, the FRG, and some other European states.

The delegation comprises Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; Jawid al-Ghusayn, PLO Executive Committee member — who will both join the delegation in Rome — and Khalid al-Hasan, chief of parliamentary and foreign affairs in the PNC.

Delegation to Meet French 27 Jun

JN220724 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Amman, *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — A Palestinian source has announced in Amman that it has been decided that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will leave Amman on 25 Jun for Rome and Paris in order to explain the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to officials in Italy and France. The delegation will accentuate the call for holding an international conference to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East with the participation of the PLO and the UN Security Council members.

The Palestinian official said that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is scheduled to meet with French officials on 27 June. Regarding the delegation's visit to London, a decision will be made in light of the contacts between London and Washington. It will also be decided whether the visit will take place before or after Murphy's visit to the region.

Operations in Occupied Territories Reported

GF251842 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A spokesman for the General Command of the Palestine Revolution Forces has stated the following:

Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied territories carried out two operations against enemy vehicles during the past 24 hours. The details of the operations are as follows:

1. Our revolutionaries attacked with incendiary bombs an enemy vehicle on the main road between Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunus on 24 June, wounding the driver of the vehicle and (?demolishing) the vehicle.

2. An incendiary bomb was hurled at an enemy jeep on the main road leading to Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus on 23 June, setting it on fire. Despite the enemy pursuit after the operation our

revolutionaries managed to continue their movement outside the operation area successfully.

The revolution will continue until victory.

[Signed] The General Command of the Palestine Revolution Forces.

PLO Radio on 24 June Jerusalem Explosion
JN251830 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestine Revolution Forces General Command has stated the following:

Despite all the Zionist measures in our occupied land's cities and villages, the martyr Lina al-Nabulsi group managed to place a highly explosive charge within a Zionist troop transportation station in Al-Nabi Ya'qub in occupied Jerusalem yesterday. The charge went off at 1900 yesterday when the station was crowded with troops. The explosion resulted in heavy losses in men and material. The losses are not yet known because of the siege imposed on the area and the measures that have affected all residents of the holy city. The group returned safely to base.

GULF AFFAIRS

Contacts With Iran To Release Ship 'Stepped Up'

GF251240 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Jun 85 p 1

[Excerpts] The government of Kuwait has stepped up high-level contacts to release a Kuwaiti-registered freighter from Iranian detention, officials in Kuwait reported yesterday.

They said that Foreign Ministry officials summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait and asked him to communicate to Tehran their demand for release of the 23,800-ton *Al-Muharraq*.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, also has been instructed to approach the Iranian Government with a similar demand, the same officials said.

Kuwait's efforts to regain *Al-Muharraq* coincided with a telephone contact between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and HH the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Details of the contact were not immediately available. But official sources in Kuwait said the two leaders discussed the "latest developments in the (Gulf) region."

BAHRAIN

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interviews Amir on Arab Unity

GF251540 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Jun (WAKH) — H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah called on the Arab nations to sink their differences especially in the current circumstances.

H.H. the amir also called for Arab unity.

In a interview with the Kuwaiti daily *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* published today. H.H. the amir hoped that the next Arab summit will take place shortly.

Regarding the next GCC summit to be held in Muscat, H.H. the amir said that such meetings are aimed at achieving coordination on the path of solidarity and prosperity.

H.H. the amir described ties among the GCC states as strong and fruitful.

The amir stressed the necessity of ending the Iraq-Iran war to ensure security, prosperity, and stability of the region.

Turning to the situation in Lebanon, H.H. the amir said we are following the situation in Lebanon with great concern.

H.H. the amir affirmed keenness on the safety of Lebanon and support to the Palestinian question.

Interior Minister on Anti-Terrorism Meeting

GF251300 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun (WAKH) — Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah has urged the Arab Gulf countries to undertake further strong joint security measures to confront the currently prevailing wave of terrorism.

In a statement to Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* published today, he said that the next meeting of the GCC interior ministers in September will discuss the security requirements in the Gulf. He added that he hopes that this meeting will bring about security resolutions to protect Gulf citizens.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah lauded the brotherly feelings binding the governments and the peoples of the region. Stressing that travel among the region countries is easy he said: We, in Bahrain, welcome everyone, particularly the children of the Gulf. He added: As for the issue of identity cards, a uniform Gulf passport is being prepared at this early stage to further promote travel facilities. When research and studies on issuing identity cards are completed, they will be used in addition to passports for travel among the GCC countries.

The interior minister pointed out that the Palestinian presence in the GCC countries is subject to the rules ofeach country. He said that the Palestinians receive brotherly treatment and that they have the right to live in peace as long as they respect the laws of the country in which they live. He said that Kuwait's decision to search diplomats and diplomatic pouches is allowed by general international law and international agreements. These agreements define international relations of the diplomatic corps and diplomats under emergency conditions, in addition to reciprocal treatment.

Defense Minister on GCC Military Cooperation

GF251800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force [BDF] has affirmed the importance of joint exercises among the armed forces of the GCC states.

His highness said that these exercises will contribute toward developing combat capabilities and efficiency and toward enhancing the existing military cooperation among the GCC states.

This came during His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah's meeting this afternoon with Staff Brigadier General Habib al-Mayl, commander in chief of the Kuwaiti naval force, and commander of the Kuwaiti naval units participating in the joint exercise with the Bahraini naval forces. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah stated that these meetings reflect solid bilateral relations based on love and brotherhood.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, the BDF chief of staff.

SADA AL-USBU' on Iran's Detention of Ship

GF251432 Manama SADA AL-USBU' in Arabic 25 Jun 85 p 3

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The detention of a Kuwaiti cargo ship by Iranian authorities while it was in international waters a few days ago is part of Iran's esclation of the Iraq-Iran war. This escalation is considered by all measures an unjustified act of piracy. Kuwait is not in a state of war with Iran, but rather has been making efforts to stop the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran. Kuwait is not considered a party in the war between the two neighbors. Therefore, any act of aggression against Kuwait, whether on its territory or outside it, is rejected, condemned, and considered preposterous.

Based on these facts, the new Iranian move will involve the entire region in the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran. This trend will enhance Iraq's view that the war, which began 5 years ago, is not being waged over land that one party usurped from the other nor is it being waged by one party to put an end to the practices of the other. Consequently, this war is not between Iraq and Iran, but rather between two contradictory nationalities. Indeed it is a war for existence, or at least this is what Tehran wants it to be.

Iraq has reiterated that this war, which was imposed on it, is a war between Arabs and Persians, between two entities which Islam — the religion of both — should have unified and brought together. However, the anti-Arab Persian authorities ruling Tehran do not want to deal with their Muslim neighbors through Islam's love, amity, and solidarity. These authorities want to go back to the days of the pre-Islamic era. Iraq's view has come true. Time is proving Iraq's point.

Amir Returns From 'Private Visit' to Kuwait

GF251420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1305 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Jun (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today returned to Manama from Kuwait following a private visit to his brother, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Shaykh 'Isa was accompanied by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and a number of high-ranking officials. He held discussions with the Kuwaiti amir on bilateral relations and Arab Gulf issues of common concern.

Amir Receives Message From Iranian President

GF260656 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0643 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a written message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i concerning current developments in the region.

The message was delivered by 'Abbas Shokuhi, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain, during his meeting with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah in Manama today.

Amir Receives Pakistani Leader's Message

GF260740 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by (Mohammad Shaban Opal), the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Bahrain, during his meeting with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah in Manama today.

KUWAIT

U.S. Strike Against Lebanon, Iran 'Almost Certain'

GF252010 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Sources state that it has become almost certain that a big U.S. operation will be carried out against Beirut airport after the release of the hostages or before it. The operation will be aimed at destroying the airport, which is considered to have become a center for international terrorism. The shelling and the resultant debilitation of the airport may be accompanied by the shelling of various locations in Lebanon, especially the positions of what is called the central command of secret organizations operating under several ficticious names.

The events surrounding the hijacking of the U.S. plane have unveiled the existence of good central coordination among various extremist organizations, which exchange roles and names, but are all linked with a secret central command.

The sources concluded by saying that the abovementioned scenarios are being planned in parallel so that the implementation of a negotiated settlement to the hostage issue will not preclude the U.S. operation which might be extended to cover the Iran's Khark Island. Word on the existence of extensive military plans concerning the Middle East has resulted, over the last 2 days, in the mobilization of some Arab states' forces and those of Israel.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Terrorist Designs in Region

GF241516 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* has stated that organized terrorist designs intend to threaten the security and stability of the region in order to dominate it and achieve certain objectives.

In an article published today the newspaper stated that these designs are represented by the new Persian expansion, which attempts to disturb the stability of the region by instigating chauvinism through terrorist groups under the cover of Islam. It pointed out that the latest of these attempts is the sinful aggression against the amir of Kuwait.

The newspaper expressed regret that the new Persian expansion is using some Arab regimes to carry out its designs. *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* affirmed that this expansion is carefully planning to

fragment this nation by spreading its poisonous ideas among the region's people under the slogan of Islam.

Bahraini Leader Arrives To Congratulate Amir

LD251031 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun (KUNA) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifa arrived here today on an unexpected short visit.

The visit is to extend congratulations to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, on his escape from the sinful attack on 25 May.

AL-QABAS quoting a Bahraini source, said that the two leaders will discuss, during this visit, the latest developments in the Arab region and the Gulf war.

Bahraini Leader, Delegation Depart

LD251542 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1209 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun (KUNA) — His Royal Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and the accompanying delegation left Kuwait International Airport this afternoon at 1230 after a short visit to the country.

The amir of Kuwait was among those who saw him off.

QATAR

AL-RAYAH Stresses Arabs Not Terrorists

GF250906 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Jun 85

[From the Press review]

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Jun (QNA) — The Qatari newspaper *AL-RAYAH* stresses editorially today that while everyone is strongly denouncing the hijacking of the U.S. plane, it must be pointed out that Arabs are neither terrorists nor do they want to commit terrorist acts. Arabs have rights and a just cause.

The paper calls on the United States, being the major side in the crisis, to consider the issue of the plane out of a desire to solve it and not out of a plan to gain time with the aim of undertaking a military measure, as such a measure will inflict great harm on the hostages. The paper calls on the United States to reconsider its position toward the region's issues and the peace process in general.

The paper then calls on the Zionist entity, which is regarded as a strategic ally of the United States, to adopt a positive position in favor of the United States by releasing all the detained Lebanese. The paper points out that Arabs must exert efforts to show that they favor peace and that they have a just cause. The paper says that this could be done through interceding with the Amal movement to ensure the safety of the hostages and through making international moves to pressure the Zionist entity to release the Lebanese detainees.

In conclusion the paper says that Arabs have to dismiss the charge of terrorism leveled against them and intensify efforts to reveal the nature of Zionist terrorism — terrorism that detains innocent people, takes their lands, instigates discord in the region and exposes it to danger, and obstructs the peace process.

UAE

Press Criticizes U.S. 'Threats' Against Lebanon

GF260900 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jun (WAM) — Three local UAE papers today warn of a possible U.S. aggression against Lebanon following the threats made by the U.S. Administration yesterday to impose a naval, land, and air siege on Beirut as part of the U.S. measures to end the U.S. hostages crisis in Lebanon. The papers call on Arab countries to be alert and ready for this aggression.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* cites the statements of U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in which he said that the hijacking of the U.S. plane is the beginning of a war. The paper says that the response being prepared by Washington is to impose a siege on Beirut, and that U.S. institutions are seeking to inflame public opinion against Arabs and Muslims and "the results so far have been reflected in opinion polls in which the American people are demanding the occupation of Lebanon, and the burning of a mosque in Houston in retaliation for the hijacking of the plane, with similar actions to follow."

In its editorial, the paper goes on to say that the United States "chooses the tone of force and aggression, although the solution to the plane's crisis is evident and easy for it, since it certainly possesses a method to release the Lebanese detainees in Israel. However, it is evident that this method is not being considered by Washington and the issue is merely a new pretext for aggression or for supporting aggression."

In conclusion *AL-ITTIHAD* emphasizes that "while hijackings are rejected, aggression, threats, kidnapping Lebanese persons, taking the Arabs lightly, and burning mosques are things that cannot be accepted or justified, except through an inverted logic that contradicts all the requirements of reason and logic."

The newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* says that the huge U.S. military buildup and muscle-flexing along the Lebanese coast proves that there is an intention to launch a lightning military aggression against Beirut to free the kidnapped hostages. The U.S. Administration will not resort to a long war in Lebanon or outside Lebanon, as some tend to believe.

The paper adds that what is important is that the justifications for U.S. aggression are not convincing despite the inability to foresee consequences in advance. [sentence as received]

The paper expresses the belief that the major parties to the crisis and its elements must move toward a solution rather than unnecessary escalation. The paper adds: "The U.S. Administration should be more concerned than anyone else with accepting facts, away from the policy of threats and the intimidation of secure peoples that such a policy entails, especially since the U.S.

method of dealing with crises and resolving conflicts has become revolting and has taken on a form which the logic of the age does not accept."

The Al-Shariqah-based newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* emphasizes that the U.S. threat to impose an economic siege on Lebanon, attack Beirut Airport, and devastate all that the United States considers terrorist centers in Lebanon demonstrates only one thing — the bankruptcy of the U.S. Administration and the loss of all its mental faculties in its ability to deal politically and diplomatically with crises. "When the mind loses its powers, muscles are flexed."

The paper adds: "Yes, the United States has the ability to besiege Lebanon, nay it is capable with its terrifying weapons to wipe it from the map. But, it is not capable of preventing the Arab people — from the ocean to the Gulf, along with all the poor and free people of the world who are burned by the U.S. fire every day — from continuing to reject the United States and resist it."

The paper goes on to say: "The explicit U.S. threat to Lebanon, and the implicit threat to some Arab and Islamic countries, must be confronted with total decisiveness and power, because our homeland is not a land that is open to the new tartars to do with as they please."

In conclusion the paper says: "Let the United States come with its fleets and let it impose on us a war of famishment and destruction; we will resist it with our fingernails. We are confident that we are right and certain that the power of falsehood lasts briefly and that the power of right lasts until doomsday."

President Receives Message From Iranian Counterpart

GF251336 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1270 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 25 Jun (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message concerned regional developments, current Islamic issues, and bilateral relations. It was delivered by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Fomani Hae'ri during his audience with the UAE president today. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Handan ibn Muhammad; Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad, representative of the Abu Dhabi ruler in the Eastern Region and chairman of the board of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; and Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid.

KHALEEJ TIMES Views 'New Phase' in Gulf War

GF251244 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 25 Jun 85 p 6

[Editorial: "New Phase in the Gulf War?"]

[Text] The Gulf war, which has gone through various stages since it began nearly five years ago, may be entering a new phase that may involve a de-escalation in the fighting coupled with a new Iranian diplomatic offensive.

In what has been described as a major tactical switch, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards 'Ali Reza Afshar announced that Ayatollah Khomeyni had issued an overall order for a "defensive jihad". This has been interpreted as a departure from the "human wave" offensives to small and swift assaults anywhere on the war-front, including guerrilla-style attacks, to maintain military pressure without incurring heavy losses in men and equipment. While this strategy may reduce the level of hostilities, the dangers of expansion of the war still remain.

The detention by an Iranian naval force of a Kuwaiti vessel near the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday is a case in point, for it may draw in not only other Gulf states, but even the superpowers who have been itching to intervene.

Simultaneously, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament and spokesman for Ayatollah Khomeyni, proposed last week the establishment of an international court "to pave the way for ending the war."

Although no details of the proposal have been released, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked foreign diplomats who had been unexpectedly summoned to parliament, to carry a letter to their governments. This has been accompanied by intense diplomatic activities that have seen Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani visiting Libya and Syria after his return from a recent visit to Beijing.

Other Iranian delegations are going to India, which is current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and other countries in South Asia, to Latin America and Africa. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has also sent a message to the secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, expressing the hope that the ICO would take steps to halt the attacks on the cities.

Although it is still difficult to see what the rulers in Tehran have in mind, this is apparently the first Iranian peace initiative since the beginning of the war, which is significant in itself. Moreover, it comes in conjunction with the reported decision to de-escalate the war which provides a glimmer of hope.

The proposal for an international tribunal is hardly likely to be found acceptable by Iraq in its present form, but it may give an opportunity for a cessation of hostilities and may prove the thin end of the wedge of peace in a war that has already cost so much in terms of life and property in the two neighbouring Muslim countries.

Government Withdraws Recognition of Libya

GF261138 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jun 85

["Text" of Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement — read by announcer]

[Text] On 23 June 1985, a joint statement was issued by the two suspect regimes in Libya and Iran which affirms the support of the Al-Qadhdhafi regime for Iran in its aggressive war against Iraq, an Arab country and member of the Arab League.

The contents of this statement are merely an affirmation of suspect alliance between the two regimes, which has become a well-known reality for several years. During this time the Libyan regime has offered what military aid it possessed to Iran and cooperated with it in various fields and provided it with material and political support. It has encouraged it to continue the war, driven by its grudges and psychological illnesses, and its impetuous desire to destroy the Arab nation and ruin the Arab entity.

What draws our attention is that this bizarre Libyan behavior came a few days after an Arab unity plan which had been prepared by the leader of Libya's regime and which he presented to the Arab countries, including Iraq. This also took place following a visit to Iraq by the foreign minister of this regime, during which he discussed bilateral relations and presented the unity plan to Iraq in an official manner.

In this climate, the Libyan regime then hosted the man called Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and announced their miserable alliance.

With regard to all this, we would like to clarify the following:

1. The alliance between the two miserable regimes in Libya and Iran will not add new strength to them. They have been allied in fact for several years. In 1983 they signed a similar statement with the Syrian regime. Such alliances which are based on hate and opportunist motives, and cheap deals which completely lack principled and moral bases and the elements of continuity, have not and will not move one leaf in the palm trees of proud Iraq. With the help of God and the strength of its courageous sons, and with the support of those who possess goodwill among the Arabs and friends, it has held steadfast in the face of the yellow Khomeyniite wind and has crushed its repeated offensive, and made it moan heavily from its wounds, so much so that now, despite its claims, it is in urgent need of public support and an official alliance with a bad regime such as Al-Qadhdhafi's. If this position indicates anything at all, it indicates a state of frustration and fear of the future experienced by these two regimes which are pursued by their own peoples in retribution for the crimes they have perpetrated and the perversions which have characterized their bahvior under the guise of false slogans which no longer deceive anyone.

We are confident that this alliance based on opportunist needs and on treacherous intentions will not rescue the shaking Al-Qadhdhafi regime from the anger of the Libyan Arab people. Neither will it rescue the Tehran regime from its inevitable fate so long as it insists on continuing the war and aggression and on refusing peace. The masses of the Arab people, in addition to Islamic and international public opinion, cannot be deceived by the false lies with which these two regimes have covered their suspect alliance. Everyone realizes the embroilment of these two evil regimes in animosity toward the Arab nation and toward the unity of the Muslims, in addition to their conspiring with the Zionists in order to undermine Arab and Islamic solidarity and fan sedition in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

2. This statement, in addition to what we have mentioned, mirrors evil intentions that are aimed at other Arab countries which have been mentioned explicitly or implicitly. It is designed to threaten the security of these countries, their stability and sovereignty. It is also designed to blackmail them. That is why Iraq believes that all Arab countries — except those in collusion with these two regimes in the plans for sectarian partition which are prepared in the corridors of Zionism — must denounce this suspect and shameful alliance. They also must adopt the necessary measures against the two sides of the alliance and against those who join them in order to protect the Arab nation from threats and extortion attempts that serve the Zionist plan, where this plan is designed to demolish the Arab entity and to weaken the Arab nation. Any negligence on this issue will undoubtedly encourage those conspirators to go far in their conspiracy.

3. In view of what the position of the suspect Libyan regime implies in intentional and continuous determination to violate the Arab League Charter and the treaty of joint Arab defense and economic cooperation among the Arab countries, Iraq has decided to withdraw its recognition of the Libyan regime as an Arab regime and member of the Arab League. On the basis of this, Iraq has decided to withdraw its diplomatic mission from Tripoli and has asked the diplomatic mission of this regime to leave Iraq.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 25 Jun

JN252008 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here from Amman this evening on an official visit of several days to Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Arab liberation movements bureau at the RCC, and the bureau's director and members received him at the airport.

Received by Saddam

JN261106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1043 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the threats against the Palestinian resistance and the plans to liquidate the Palestinians and their just cause.

President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's strong support for the PLO and its legitimate leadership, and for the Palestinian Arab people in order to confront these plans and conspiracies which serve the Zionist objectives of liquidating the Palestine question and of partitioning the region into little states that are agents of

the Zionist entity. The two sides also discussed the current Arab situation, the need for joint Arab action, and the importance of holding an Arab summit to confront the dangers and threats to the Arab nation and to achieve the effective Arab solidarity in the face of these dangers and threats. They also reviewed the firm fraternal relations between Iraq and the PLO.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed thanks and appreciation for the support of President Saddam Husayn and Iraq for the Palestinian Arab people's just struggle in harmony with Iraq's principled stands.

Attending the meeting were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member; Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Receives USSR Ambassador 25 Jun

JN251651 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today received Viktor Minin, the USSR ambassador in Baghdad, in the presence of Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary.

Oil Minister Departs for Paris Bilateral Meeting

JN260849 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi left Baghdad for Paris this morning to head the Iraqi side to the second session of the Iraqi-French committee for economic and technical cooperation. The committee will discuss bilateral cooperation in science, culture, industry, oil, housing, trade, agriculture, and tourism.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Communique No 1,876

JN251643 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Communique No 1,876 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 June 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of Iraq's might and greatness and in order to safeguard its present as well as its people's security and future, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their heroic activities in all the operational sectors against the tyrannical clique's forces in Iran.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Several of our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater delivered heavy artillery and mortar strikes against the enemy positions, weapons emplacements, and vehicles, scoring effective hits. They destroyed two infantry positions, killing their occupants; one heavy machinegun emplacement; one antiaircraft machinegun; one 120mm mortar emplacement; and two observation posts. They also set two hardware stockpiles on fire, and damaged two vehicles, one special large vehicle and one small vehicle.

2. With great courage and high efficiency, one of our forward units in the norhtern sector of the front ambushed and killed four enemy soldiers. Our men seized one rifle and one 60mm mortar before returning safely to base. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our heroic combat patrols brought back from no-man's-land 9 machineguns, 11 rifles, 4 light launchers, and other equipment that the enemy left behind in previous battles.

3. One of our forward units sighted a group of enemy personnel opposite our positions in the east of Basra sector. It used mortars and other weapons to fire on them, and managed to hit them all. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses. Elsewhere in the same sector, other units fired at the enemy positions and weapons emplacements, destroying one heavy machinegun and one hardware stockpile and starting fires in other enemy positions.

4. Our brave artillery units opened concentrated fire on selected enemy targets in the IV Army Corps' operational sector, scoring devastating hits, inflicting heavy losses on the tyrannical clique's forces, and destroying several hardware stockpiles.

5. A patrol from one of our units in the east of Tigris sector brought Iranian weapons back from no-man's-land.

6. The criminal and tyrannical clique will not abandon its hostile stands toward Iraq and its people. This clique's cowardly forces shelled the suburbs of Mandali and Halabjah with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 June 1985

Shelling of Cities Denied

JN251722 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — Iraq today denied Iranian claims on the artillery shelling of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

An authorized military spokesman told INA this evening that the Iraqi Armed Forces are still committed to not strafe any targets deep inside Iran until further orders are issued.

He added that such claims are meant to deceive the Iranian people, and are a desperate attempt by the Iranian rulers to shirk responsibility and wash their hands of the damages that will be inflicted on the Iranian people as a result of their insistence on war.

Concluding, the spokesman said: If the Iranian rulers do care for their people, they should accept Iraq's call for an end to war in accordance with the just and practical bases fixed by President Saddam Husayn in his message to the Iranian people.

Maritime Target Hit

JN260616 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Statement by military spokesman — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In implementation of the Iraqi people's will to sever oil supplies from the regime of aggression and in continuation of our measures to impose a siege on Khark Island, the hero eagles of the two rivers dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near Khark Island at 0015 today [2015 GMT on 25 June].

After accurately carrying out their duty, they returned safely to base.

Let the Iranian rulers know that Iraq's reply to their insistence on prolonging the war and carrying out acts of piracy will be continued devastating blows to all the pillars of aggression, and that neither their foolish behavior nor their suspect alliances with the agents of Zionism, those who claim to be Arabs, will benefit them.

Peace will continue to be the only road to salvation. We seek assistance and success from God.

[Dated] 26 June 1985

Commentaries Deride Iranian-Libyan Agreement

JN260858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Two local Iraqi papers stress that the Iranian rulers and their allies in Tel Aviv, Tripoli, and Damascus will not be capable of shaking one leaf on Iraq's palm trees. *AL-THAWRAH*, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the Iranian and Libyan regimes have signed a malicious agreement, written with the ink of baseness and vileness, and that the Khomeyniites did not benefit from this agreement signed in Tripoli because defeat continues to be their lot. The paper adds that their new agreement will not be any better than the previous one. *AL-THAWRAH* stresses that the Iraqis' victories and devastating blows have forced the Khomeyniites to look through their old cards and resort to their Zionist allies and those who claim to be Arabs and that they will only glean defeat and frustration.

Under the headline "An Empty Cry," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: All that Al-Qadhdhafi has done is to proceed on the course the Zionists are adopting to dismember the Arab nation, when only a few days ago he was calling for the Arab nation's unity. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* adds that this agreement is nothing more than an emtpy cry with which they will achieve nothing. The paper concludes by saying that neither this agreement nor any other would extricate Al-Qadhdhafi from his domestic dilemma, or save the Iranian rulers from their predicament, and would not affect Iraq's revolution or check its victories.

AL-DUSTUR on Possible Action Against Hijackers

JN260930 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jun 85 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A Serious Turning Point in the Airliner Crisis"]

[Text] It seems that the crisis of the hijacked U.S. plane at Beirut airport, and the overt and covert efforts that have so far failed to release the passengers of the plane — is quickly moving from the stage of mutual arm twisting and the consequent U.S. demonstration of power — to another new level represented by clear U.S. military pressure that could turn, at any moment, into armed interference harboring threats to Lebanon and the region, which will have great and unpredictable consequences.

Regarding the White Hosue official spokesman's statement yesterday about possible measures against Lebanon, including a naval siege, and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's remarks about the presence of U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast in a state of war, we say that the U.S. announcement of these measures and precautions gives us reason to believe that a very serious development has taken place regarding the hijack crisis whose continuation in this manner has prepared the U.S. public opinion for any action President Reagan's administration might adopt.

Moreover, the continuation of this crisis has forced the U.S. public opinion to call on this administration to take action to end the crisis by any means in order to avoid a repetition of the hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran 5 years ago.

Of course, we cannot view all these possible threats to Lebanon and the area around it away from events especially as the consequences go beyond the geographical limits of the crisis.

Moreover, we cannot accept that any side has the right to drag the entire region into the abyss, or give the United States a pretext, that might be acceptable in the West, to indulge in possible military interference that would basically only serve the Israeli enemy and push the entire region into a serious international confrontation.

It is an axiom that threatening the safety of civil aviation and detaining innocent civilian passengers does not result in the hijackers receiving any popular or official sympathy despite their just demands. Moreover, this action merely entrenches the moral and political isolation of those who were involved in the bloody and brutal war against the Palestinian refugee camp. This has prevented anyone from defending their action which is characterized by arrogance and recklessness, when dealing with just and genuine issues such as the Arab and Lebanese detainees in Israel.

Therefore, the statements issued in many Arab and international capitals, the most recent being the Lebanese president's statement strongly denouncing the hijacking of the U.S. airliner — can only be viewed as an expression of the isolation of the hijackers and the collapse of their poisonous factional logic. This logic is being implemented in a manner that serves the possible U.S. military interference. We realize that such interference will be very expensive not only for the United States, the hijackers, and those who support them, but also for the entire region and its just issues.

AL-RA'Y Columnist on Hijacked U.S. Airliner

JN251304 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jun 85 pp 21, 24

[From the "7 Days" column by Khalid Mahadin: "Mr President, This Action Is Also Denounced"]

[Text] President Reagan has described the hijackers of the U.S. plane — which was still at Beirut airport at this writing — as uncivilized barbarians. We totally agree with the president.

However, we say but — a but that is bigger than the plane, and more painful than the feelings of its innocent passengers, and greater than horror and terrorism, killing and destruction, crimes and invasion, and silence and carelessness.

The hijackers are barbarians. This is what the U.S. president says. We agree and say that we said this before he did. The U.S. president has also affirmed that the hijackers are uncivilized. We also agree with this and say that we affirmed this before the president.

At any rate, we redress ourselves and add a but. This redress does not supersede what we have already said, but seeks to find the whole truth, because the greatness of facts lies in their not having a particular nationality, and in remaining unchanged regardless of time and place. There is no such a thing as a U.S. or a USSR fact. Neither is there a European or an Arab fact. There is only one humanitarian fact.

We wonder why any action that is aimed against any American person or any American thing is considered an act of terrorism while a similar action that is aimed against a non-American person or a non-Amercian thing is not considered an act of terrorism?

We also wonder why any action against anything Zionist or against any Zionist person is considered an act of terrorism while a similar action against the Arabs is not viewed so?

We will give one or two examples although we have hundreds or even thousands of examples: Are the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the siege and storming of Beirut, and the massacres against the Palestinian and Lebanese men, women, children, girls, houses, hospitals, nurseries, and old people's homes not considered acts of terrorism that can only be carried out by uncivilized barbarians?

Moreover, are the storming of the Sabra and Shatila camps and the massacres of the age by the Phalangists under the protection of the occupation forces not considered acts of terrorism that only uncivilized barbarians can carry out?

Are the siege, shelling, killing, and destruction of the Palestinian camps in Beirut — amid almost total Arab silence, total U.S. silence, and similar international silence — not considered organized acts of terrorism whose perpetrators deserve to be described as uncivilized barbarians? Just a reminder, the racist Zionist machine is practicing in this region a series of terrorist acts against cities, villages, schools, universities, mosques, churches, nuclear plants, and centers of production.

Ghali, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Hostage Crisis

NC251532 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, today.

Their talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the U.S. hostage crisis. Ghali told Veliotes that Egypt condemns this operation and that it is making efforts to end the crisis.

Mubarak Addresses Local Government Symposium

NC251217 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0848 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the Second National Symposium on Local Government held at the Main Celebration Hall at Cairo University — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brothers and sisters, members of the National Symposium on Local Government. First, I would like to thank you for the invitation to attend your very important symposium. I also thank the minister of local government for his good speech. I am pleased that the goals of this important symposium are directed toward two facts: The first fact is the evaluation of what the local government system has accomplished in 25 years, both its positive and negative accomplishments. The second fact is that there can be no progress without development. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen the people's participation in the local development of production and services.

If I speak to you about the first goal, then I say that it is certain that the establishment of local government in Egypt was a pioneer experiment in eradicating centralization, which was the pivot of Egyptian rule, and in advancing toward building sound democracy. In these two fields, we must make a sound evaluation which does not waste good actions or conceal bad deeds, and which is not isolated from general conditions and from the extent of their effect on the actions of local government. I hope that the symposium's research in this field will be practical and that it will concentrate on facts and deal with reality. This must be directed toward answering a major question: How has the citizen benefitted from local government, how has this government affected the citizen's daily life and the demands of this life, and what has been achieved and not achieved within the scope of this fact? The obvious and frank answer to this major question and all of its ramifications is the real touchstone for appraising the system of local government. I hope in this regard that we will be honest with ourselves. Progress can only be achieved through honesty. No benefit is achieved by disclosing mistakes and shortcomings if we are not sincere and if we do not resolve to learn from the mistakes by correcting them.

The measurement of the success of the government's democracy depends not only on the extent of the freedom of expression, movement, and action enjoyed by the citizen, but is first and last represented by the extent of the effect of democracy on the betterment of our daily life. The local government system was prepared for the sake of this development. Where has it succeeded or where has it failed to achieve the desired result? If we obtain the correct answers, then we will be able to move to a new stage that will bolster our success and avoid shortcomings and deficiencies.

Brothers and sisters: When evaluating the positive and negative aspects, I hope you will always consider that man is the target of development and that it is man who makes progress. [cheers and applause] The human factor is an important and basic element which cannot be ignored. Laws are not rigid articles, but an expression of man's needs and an expression of security and safety requirements of society. Laws are a just balance between rights and duties — the rights of man and his duties, and the rights of society and its duties. Laws form the natural equation in every sound society in which law is supreme. Laws form a natural equation that governs our dealings with the present and our aspirations for the future.

This general symposium is the second in the life of local government. It is being held 25 years after the issuance of the law on local government. Therefore, the evaluation here is an evaluation of a lengthy experiment which has passed through several stages and which provides an opportunity for the emergence of positive and negative aspects. Undoubtedly, these matters are very clear to you while you are deeply involved with the experiment. You are also confronting the reality and essence of the experiment. This symposium is being held to issue a just verdict. Nothing is easier than saying that it is impossible to do more than what has been done. Nothing is easier than inflating the positive results and finding excuses for all the negative aspects. However, this is not what is required or desired. What is required first and foremost is frankness and absolute loyalty to the truth on the basis that sincerety is the shortest route to success.

Brothers and sisters, exposing our mistakes and pinpointing areas where trouble exists is not a goal in itself. It only helps us determine the proper course of action. Your main task is to suggest practical solutions that can correct our shortcomings on schedule and in accordance with our method of planning. Our country is committed to that method of planning as a means of economic and social development. This will help us discover the way to achieve our planned objectives.

Furthermore, the task of evaluation should not be taken to mean a predilection for numbers, as these may not accurately reflect what is happening. For instance, when figures are given on the number of medical centers, schools, or miles of road constructed, we should ensure that these centers, schools, and roads are functioning properly. [Applause]

A health facility without efficient doctors, a sufficient supply of medicine, or a complete complement of equipment, is nothing more than walls around an empty space. A school without sufficient room for students and without an adequate staff cannot do its job. It may even do more harm than good. These are simply examples. A road that buckles so badly that cars cannot use it, becomes a traffic obstacle. We do not want to deceive anyone when we talk about achievements. In his daily life, the man in the street discovers what these shortcomings are. He loses confidence when we fail to provide him with concrete evidence that

those in office respect him and his rights, that they are telling the truth, and that they are taking action. [Applause]

Therefore, I have given my solemn word to the people — which I have never failed to honor — not to make any promise that is not backed up by hard facts and is reflected in concrete achievements. Paper achievements are not enough.

Brothers and sisters, participants in the symposium, please forgive my blunt speech, but I want this gathering to usher in a new era, now that 25 years have passed since the introduction of local government.

With this in mind, let me discuss another objective; namely, increasing popular participation in local development, both in terms of goods and services.

The real transformation we have been trying to achieve in the past few years is this: To remove the general feeling which has prevailed among the public for a long time that the state is responsible for everything, that the government is responsible for reaching every objective, and that our people need only ask and then wait for what will be given them. This general feeling that the citizen bears no responsibility is, in my opinion, the most serious threat to development. Our democratic system is based on the principle of participation — popular participation in thinking, decisionmaking, issuing the decision, implementing the decision, and following up the outcome and effects of the decision. The time has gone when decisions were issued from above and the citizen felt these decisions were imposed upon him and reflected some sort of all-embracing tutelage over him. The citizen is part of a single, large entity, which he influences and is influenced by. He does not live apart from this entity.

Democracy is an expression of this fundamental psychological link between man and his society. Our development plan was not drawn up behind closed doors. Its points and objectives were not determined through the use of abstract figures. This plan reflects a given reality and a specific hope. It is governed by the means available to us, which we are using to find new resources. There is no distinction between local development and general development. Both are indivisible parts of a collective social activity, which is conducted in various fields to increase production and provide services.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, popular participation in local development is something we cannot do without. The methods and resources for such participation must be determined, and we must be careful to come up with homegrown solutions.

Village society, for example, is more aware of its needs and interests, and of the means required to satisfy them. As I told you, the human factor cannot be ignored, nor can its role be minimized in the field of development. It is man who thinks, decides, and implements. I believe that the general public must now be prepared to play its positive role, and to share in the responsibility. This responsibility must not be left to the executive departments alone.

Making the public aware of the spirit of participation is the first step toward local development on the basis of our own solutions, voluntary efforts, and positive cooperation. All this stems from the unshakable belief that every citizen has an obligation to build if he has a right to reap the fruits of construction. Our young people are undoubtedly capable of stimulating local development with their strong arms, open minds, deep sense of loyalty, and national determination to contribute. All this can be achieved through organization and coordination, and with programs that have been planned and carefully thought out.

Brothers and sisters, members of the symposium. If our democratic system is the cornerstone of our development — because our work is done out in the open, every citizen has the right to express his opinion and interests, and because the principle of popular control functions effectively through our constitutional institutions and free press — it is also the cornerstone of our security and stability. There can be no development without stability and there can be no stability without the rule of law and the provision of justice. I believe the past few years are the best proof of this fact.

Democratic Egypt is in the vanguard in a region filled with every possible challenge to democracy. Some are trying to impose the tyranny of power, and are attempting to achieve their aims through violence and force. All eyes are on stable Egypt. This is shining proof that the freedom of our people is the cause of our stability, and that the rule of law protects it. Egypt is the place where man enjoys his right to a secure life that respects the sacred and lays the complete foundation for productive work. All in all, Egypt forms a close-knit family. The Egypt of all Egyptians stands as shining proof before all the peoples of the region and the entire Third World.

We have begun the first 5-year economic and social development plan under the aegis of this stability. Egyptian, Arab, and foreign capital is being invested in Egypt under the aegis of this stability. The targets of the development plan are being reached at a successful rate under the aegis of this stability. This encourages us to work harder and to be more ambitious while drawing up the next development plan.

We are facing economic obstacles which resulted from the exhaustion of our resources in war. We are also looking forward to replacing our losses. Therefore, stability in Egypt would help us overcome such obstacles and aid us in the search for new resources. Stability would also give us self-confidence.

Stability in Egypt comes from the will of its people. A government which depends on oppression and dictatorship might enjoy a formal stability for some time. However, that stability will soon erode, as a people can never live under oppression and humiliation. People live and progress when they feel they belong to a homeland which guarantees them all their legitimate rights and is prepared to defend those rights. Thus, I declare that any act which wreaks havoc with this stability is an illegitimate challenge to the national will. [Applause] Any attempt to upset this stability is an attempt to undermine the people's right to a dignified life. Any disruption of this stability is a direct attack on the rights of every Egyptian citizen.

These are clear-cut and frank declarations. I will repeat them to anyone who might believe that our national will can be deceived

by slogans filled with every evil. Our people will never accept anyone's tutelage. They have chosen their constitution and have elected their representatives, who are passing laws on their behalf. We have no laws that distinguish between sects or factions. Egyptian law is supreme. Those among us who believe they are above the law are fooling themselves. Those among us who want to shake our confidence should know that the law will never permit this.

From this democratic forum I warn, I warn, and I warn [applause] that our responsibility to defend this society and to develop it through work, production, and social justice requires that we never be lenient in firmly confronting any trend which, through ignorance or delusion, believes it can forcibly impose its ideas, whims, or schemes on our people.

I am not using any ambigious words or expressions. My speech is clear and my talk is straight. My warning should not be misinterpreted.

I will say one thing. We have been involved in wars for more than 30 years. All our resources were depleted in those wars. We lost everything dear to us, including a large number of martyrs. We reached a point where we found ourselves without an infrastructure. We found ourselves without water, sewers, electricity, housing, roads, telephones, and so on. Food became scarce as a result of an increase in population and a decrease in the amount of land under cultivation. We faced many problems, as all our resources were channeled into the defense of our homeland and its dignity.

However, after having embarked on the road to peace, we had to think of ways to alleviate the suffering of our people. We discovered that there can be no solution without a 5-year plan which takes account of our limited resources. Such a plan must also seek the best way to utilize these resources in order to benefit the average citizen. I cannot say that I will be able to alleviate suffering with one or two 5-year plans. Everyone must understand that. Our resources are limited, but we are trying to reduce suffering.

Three years of the plan are already over. God knows what would have happened if we had not formulated this plan. God knows what would have happened to our resources without planning. I believe we would have been in such a bad state as to be beyond human comprehension. The figures are numerous, and the achievements are clear: Our generation of electricity has doubled, and we have more railroads, roads, and telephones. We have begun a large number of projects, but the road ahead remains long. We achieved these things despite our limited resources and the problems we face each year. We are insisting that the plan be implemented, as I believe it is the only way we can use our limited resources for the greatest good of the greatest number.

The price of oil is dropping. It has reached $25 or $26 a barrel. Maybe we are selling at a good price. God knows the condition of our people. Some are selling oil at $17 a barrel. A $1 drop in price means a $75 million loss for us, although the world price remains high. As a result of the drop in the price of oil on the world market from $40 to $26, many states have frozen their development programs. They have stopped employing workers. This, of course, affects remittances from Egyptians working abroad, which are used to benefit the entire Egyptian people. Our development plan needs every dollar and every pound to repair our utilities and services and to try to do something for our people.

Furthermore, the drop in the price of oil,the reduced level of employment in the oil-producing states, and the lower number of development projects have all led to a decrease in the number of ships passing through the Suez Canal. Consequently, our revenue from tolls has fallen. We expected an increase, but there was a slight decrease. The Gulf war, as you know, is also frightening away shipowners. Nevertheless, we can still say, thanks be to God, that despite all these difficulties we are moving ahead. We are now thinking about the second 5-year plan. I want to say that our people, with our limited resources, have no future without sound planning. Our plans must not be rigid. They must be flexible and must adjust to the circumstances we face from year to year. Thank God, we are implementing our plan well.

Could this plan have been implemented in a destabilized Egypt? We need investments. We need the capital held by Egyptians, Arabs, and foreigners, since we lack the resources to build factories ourselves. As you know, we have the 10 Ramadan area, the new industrial site near Al-Jizah, the 6 October area, and many others. Actually, we have a large number of industrial parks. You don't know about these places, since you don't travel around. However, I see them. When I see them, it calms my nerves. If you visit these places, it will do the same for you. It is better than taking a tranquilizer. You will see huge, productive factories that allow you to save money. That is why I encourage investment and the construction of factories. We must all encourage this. These factories produce goods locally, which replace imports. Our imports are four or five times greater than our exports. Increased production would help us promote our exports, which would allow us to face our problems. We have the manpower. Every year we must place a large number of people in new jobs. Where could they go if we did not have factories? We collect income tax to provide services to our people. No one takes this income tax for himself. No one is held under a free system which has freedom of the press. Our manpower and our income tax revenues are all marshaled on the people's behalf.

Brothers: To put it bluntly, capital is cowardly. If the Egyptian and the foreigner thought that Egypt was unstable, they would not invest their money here. We have many examples, but I will not mention any names. Due to the unstable situation in certain countries, the value of the dollar there has reached 5 pounds. I will not mention any names. What I feel sorry about is the fact that, at a time when we are going abroad to convince and encourage foreigners and Egyptians to invest, we see the papers here talking about a shaky situation. Why? Why are we destroying our country with our own hands? We are dealing with things calmly here. However, demonstrations, which might be staged for a good purpose, are being exploited by a great many people. We lose when someone wreaks havoc with our country's stability. There are many forces which hate to see this country encouraging investment, building itself up, and providing services to its people. They hate all this.

We are not an oil-producing country. We do not have oil money to spend here and there. If we did, we wouldn't have bothered to

do anything, as we would have had enough money to give every unemployed person 2,000 pounds a month. We do not have this money. I would not have bothered to build a single factory if there were only 8 million or 1.5 million of us and we had an income of 25 billion. We would not have bothered to set up projects, as we would have had enough money. If there were 1.5 million of us, I would give everyone $2,000 a piece. I would even give each person $3,000. We are completely different. Everyone envies our democracy. There are forces which want to hurt us by exploiting certain sects here. If they succeed, these forces will cause us trouble. This will affect all of us. I tell you sincerely and frankly that you should see the truth. We will confront everyone who tries to undermine our stability here. Those playing on ladders should stop their games, as the ladders will break and their objective will be revealed. [Applause]

If our people do not work against such attempts — and I pray to God that they do, and are successful — then I will have my decision.

All our efforts for democratic rule, the supremacy of law, and the development plan are meant to lift the sufferings of low-income people and to provide the necessary requirements of life to millions of our people. We have made good steps in this regard, and we will not allow anyone to turn the wheel backward. It is the right of every citizen to think the way he wants. There is no restriction on opinions or ideas. However, no citizen has the right to impose whatever he wants, for he will then be trying to impose a restriction on the opinions of an entire society. This is an image of grotesque dictatorship which we reject and challenge. We will not allow such a dictatorship to emerge at a time when we are reaping the fruits of democracy.

Brothers and sisters, members of the symposium. Confronting repression, the imposition of ideas, and attempts to place our nation under tutelage is the responsibility of every citizen in Egypt, particularly those who are responsible for the representation, legislation, and control of millions of our people. We are all advocates of democratic rule and the supremacy of law. We are pursuing positive steps toward achieving this goal. Forging ahead provides protection for all our components, our sanctity, and our dignity. Positiveness means confrontation. We are launching this confrontation with an unshakable faith. There is no room in our society for those who try to destroy our life. Needless to say, the government is aware of what is taking place, overtly and covertly. Three years ago we opened a new page to give every citizen the chance to contribute his ideas and work toward building society. I hope it is clear that any violation of this will be met with legal deterrent action and with a firmness dictated by the higher interests of this homeland. [Applause]

I must take this opportunity to remind politicians who belong to various parties that political responsibility is first and foremost a national and pan-Arab responsibility. There is no room for party maneuvers and showmanship based on short-sightedness, for they are unable to conduct sound appraisals of events. The interest of the homeland is above all events.

I wanted to put this remark on record with complete frankness, for the homeland's affairs need only frankness and sincerity. I believe that our parties know their responsibilities and will rise to meet them. There would have been no parties had it not been for democracy. Any undermining of democracy is an undermining of development based on the multiplicity of parties. This we reject.

Brothers and sisters, members of the conference: If our domestic stability is the product of the people's will and the supremacy of the law, then we look forward to an Arab homeland, of which we are a part and which is a part of us, where the ties of cooperation and the unity of rank are restored and where all causes of division, disputes, and fighting are eliminated. The Arab image in the outside world is a regrettable one in every sense of the word. Moreover, it is a disgraceful image. I do not know of a time in our contemporary history when the Arab nation's conditions have deteriorated to such an extent.

Where is the Arab nation which was the sixth force in the world after the October war? Where is the Arab loftiness which dazzled the world and wrested its respect after the immortal October victory? Where is the Arab word which was an influential and effective factor in international decisionmaking after the world realized that we were capable, through our intrinsic power, of liberating our territory and upholding our rights? The Arab states are now like isolated islands. Their ties are torn asunder and their objectives are scattered. External forces direct some of these states, and narrow, selfish ambitions direct others. Most of them have tended toward negativism. Under the circumstances, it has become difficult for many months for the Arab leaders to meet around one table. The Arab nation has many issues that require the Arab leaders to meet once a month.

It is needless for me to say that we have painstakingly done everything possible to unite ranks, views, and goals and to restore severed relations. However, the results remain limited and may even portend negative events. The Arab land has become a battlefield on which Arab weapons shed Arab blood and where women and children are slaughtered and the wounded are killed. The bloodshed does not stop. Is there a worse deterioration of conditions? Here, and during these fateful moments, we have no option but to be frank. We have neither concealed ambitions nor do we act in the dark. Our exchanges with all parties have not ceased in the hope that sublime national interests will be victorious over regional intrinsic ambitions. However, we see the situation tending daily toward more deterioration and collapse.

The question that now imposes itself on all Arab leaders is: What can be done and what is the way out of this deterioration, which only serves the foes of Arab rights? On behalf of Egypt, I address all Arab brothers from this platform to say in the loudest voice and with the deepest faith that there must be a courageous stand. [Applause] Some have, very regrettably, resorted to the policy of terrorism. It has become a usual thing to daily hear about a terrorist crime, the only victims of which are the sons of the Arab people. Terrorism will not stop if it is not confronted by a courageous stand and decisive action. Terrorism has run wild and the terrorists believe that they can impose their ambitions and whims because they have not found anyone to resist them. Terrorist plots are only being countered by silence or by the actions of vicious circles. The continuation of these conditions will only lead to further collapse and deterioration.

Egypt, in line with its historic responsibility, will not stand idly by. It will move to the forefront and take the initiative. Egypt believes that the responsibility is of such a dimension that requires those who are targets of terrorist attacks, threats, and violence, to get together and agree on a common stand that will end the atrocious carnage which is being perpetrated today on Arab soil, with no sense of reason or conscience. Otherwise, they are in trouble.

The gravity of the situation leaves no room for the sort of formal consultations that encourage condoning terrorism, or for conspicuous interchanges that do not reach the crux of the problem and thus, practically speaking, leave terrorism a full rein.

How can we tolerate the fact that an Arab country provides rockets for the bombardment of an Arab capital, or that it publicly instigates terrorist actions. How can we tolerate the fact that an Arab country bases its policy in Lebanon on playing one sect against another in order to produce the most despicable barbaric massacres and slaughters.

Where does this leave us? There is no victor and vanquished; no winner and loser. Yet, the onus will be on those who have slipped deeply into the bloodbaths. The plotters are admiring this landscape of mutilated bodies, death, and destruction, which has not yet satiated the advocates of terrorism. I call on the conscientious Arab leaders, who well know what is being concocted behind the scenes, to unite in order to stop the flow of blood, to save innocent victims, and to chase terrorism until it retreats and disappears. I beseech the Arab leaders to take this stand before it is too late and before such a deplorable penomenon becomes impossible to combat.

Brothers and sisters, events taking place in this turbulent part of the world have forced me to spell out our stand on these vicious perils threatening our Arab people. There is no doubt that our ability to perform our Arab role depends on the solidity of our internal structure and on the increased stability required for steady progress toward the establishment of a democratic society — a society in which everyone enjoys his full rights and performs his duties under the umbrella of the law and in the atmosphere of social justice.

Egypt, a country of cohesion, promise, and drive, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its people, is steadily moving ahead with its endeavors to build a free society with the willpower of free men. I implore God to grant us all success. Peace be with you, and the mercy and blessings of God.

Mubarak Questioned on Hijacking

NC251241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said that we are opposed to any form of terrorism. This came in replies to foreign correspondents' questions following the opening session of the second National Symposium on Local Government this morning. Mubarak had been asked to comment on the hijacked American airliner in Beirut. He said: We are totally opposed to terrorism. I just explained this in my speech to the local government symposium.

Answering a question on whether his excellency believes that solving the problem lies in Israel's release of the Shi'ites, President Mubarak said: I am not informed enough to comment. I need more information to assess the situation.

Answering another question on whether he believes that there will be an end to the hostage crisis soon, President Mubarak said: I hope there will be a completely peaceful end to this crisis. Replying to a question on whether Egypt will contribute toward finding a solution to this crisis, the president said: We will do all we can. Anyhow, we are against this sort of terrorism.

Asked his opinion about the presence of U.S. Naval units in the eastern Mediterranean, his excellency said that any violence will lead to more violence.

Replying to a question on whether he has any objection to a U.S. act of revenge at (?some) stage and whether this would be a mistake, President Mubarak said: I do not believe there is a need for this because it will not solve the problem at all.

Interior Minister on Counterterrorism Measures

PM251555 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Jun 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Interior Minister Declares: We Watch Secret Movements and Fix Time To Deal With Them"]

[Text] Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi said that secret movements by certain elements that are taking place underground and in the dark are under the security organs' close surveillance, which keep track of and pursue such movements and which are well aware of the individuals and quarters that manipulate them, support them, and stand behind them. He said that efforts are being made to ensure the domestic front on the basis of several principal elements. These include: advanced scientific planning for gathering information on hostile activities, following up changes and developments relating to such activities, analyzing their trends and potentials, and then fixing the method and the ideal time for dealing with them.

In a statement to *AL-AHRAM* the minister said that the ministry's organs are working to identify the secret movements and liquidate them one by one on the grounds that clandestine activities lack legitimacy and are an indication of evil design, particularly in this era when legitimate channels of self-expression are available.

He said that the security organs's method of work is aimed at prevention rather than punishment by maintaining the initiative and not being content merely with reacting to events. It is also aimed at enlightment and information before resorting to confrontation on the grounds that the principal objective is prevention rather than punishment. The aim is also to know the psychological atmosphere among the masses and the positive and negative effects on their attitudes and inclinations with a view to providing the organs concerned with information and proposals that will enable them to deal with any adverse effects on stability and security.

Ahmad Rushdi added: We are inclined toward strengthening cooperation and integration with security organs in the Arab countries and, on the international level, exchanging information and watching trends of terrorist activities by Arab, Palestinian, and international extremist and terrorist organizations. At the same time we believe in the need to respect man's humanity and his right for defense, humanitarian treatment, and social and health care; no detention, no torture, no intimidation, and no humiliation. There is only the rule of the law.

The interior minister asserted that the security organs have sufficient legal backing, vigilance, and readiness to enable them to be in control of all the various local and imported hostile activities.

Talks With Iraqi Delegation Begin 25 June

NC251806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Egyptian-Iraqi talks began at the prime minister's office this evening. The Egyptian contingent to the talks is led by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and includes Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research; Dr Amal 'Uthman, minister of social insurance and social affairs; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and training; Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and food security; Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of industry; and Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali, minister of economy.

The Iraqi delegation is led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and includes Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, and Agriculture Minister Siddiq 'Abd al-Latif.

The discussion session was preceded by a brief bilateral meeting between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Taha Yasin Ramadan.

'Ali, Iraq's Ramadan Comment

NC252048 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — The first round of talks between the Egyptian delegation, led by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Iraqi delegation, led by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, ended this evening.

In a statement at the end of the 2-hour session, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he will convey a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak during his meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow, Wednesday. He noted that the message is part of the continuing consultations between the two presidents. The message deals with the dimensions of the situation in the area and with developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi first prime minister said that today's talks dealt with all aspects of economic, technical, scientific, and tourism cooperation between the two countries. He added that the basis for expanding bilateral cooperation has been laid down.

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also made a statement, welcoming Taha Yasin Ramadan and his delegation. He reiterated the desire of both countries to increase the amount of cooperation in all fields. He added: It was agreed in principle to form a joint permanent committee which will meet annually. The committee, however, will meet every 6 months in Baghdad and Cairo alternately to discuss technical issues.

The Egyptian-Iraqi talks are scheduled to resume tomorrow morning. A joint cooperation agreement is scheduled to be signed on Thursday morning.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali hosted a dinner banquet at the Al-Tahrir Club this evening in honor of Taha Yasin Ramadan and his delegation. The banquet was attended by members of the Egyptian delegation to the talks.

INA Report on Talks

JN251747 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, held a closed meeting with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian prime minister, here this evening.

INA has learned from informed sources in Cairo that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the prospects of promoting them in the economic, trade, technical, and cultural fields. The two sides stressed the importance of signing cooperation agreements to act as a basis for strong relations that serve the two fraternal countries' common interests.

The sources added that the talks also dealt with the Iraq- Iran war; the latest developments of the Arab issue, including the Palestine question; and the need to have a unified Arab stand in the face of the wild hostile onslaught to which the Arab nation is being exposed by the Iranian regime and the Zionist entity.

Mubarak Receives Ramadan

NC260848 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 26 June (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak this morning received Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 3-day visit.

'Abd al-Majid Leaves Cairo on European Tour

NC251818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid left Cairo for Rome today on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to Hungary, Poland, and Austria.

In a predeparture statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he will hold talks with the Italian prime minister and foreign minister dealing with the international situation and the Middle East, particularly Europe's role in this regard. He added that his discussions with the Italian officials will precede the EEC summit, scheduled to be held in Milan next Friday.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that he will attend a meeting tomorrow comprised of Egyptian ambassadors to the EEC states in order to explain Egypt's position toward the EEC role in giving momentum to the peace efforts. He said that he will forward a message from President Husni Mubarak to the pope at the Vatican.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that his talks in Hungary and Poland will deal with bilateral relations in the economic and trade fields.

People's Assembly Official Receives Soviet Envoy

NC251403 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, head of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, received Aleksandr Belonogov, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, today.

The two men discussed existing bilateral relations in various fields and ways to promote them. They also discussed preparations for an Egyptian parliamentary delegation's visit to the Soviet Union, scheduled to take place at the end of next month.

Paper Links Hijacking With U.S., Israeli Actions

PM251827 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 Jun 85 p 16

[Husayn Fahmi "Toward Tomorrow" column]

[Text] Those who are following the crisis of the U.S. hostages in Beirut, foremost of whom is Mr Reagan; those who are threatening the use of force and concentrating ships and Marines off the Lebanese shores; those who are seeking mediation by foreign governments and organizations for the release of hostages; those who warn the Arabs and the world that Reagan might take a drastic step to rescue the hostages; those who use their media to wage more campaigns of hatred and malice against the Arabs; those who have bombed the Lebanese with the rockets of their fleet when they sought to achieve what the cowardly Israeli invasion failed to achieve; those who drove Israel toward this invasion and backed it with funds, hardware, propaganda, and the U.S. veto; those who withdrew with their Israeli allies in the face of the valiant popular armed resistance; those who supplied Israel with the deadliest conventional bombs to be used for the first time against the sons of the Lebanese and Palestinian people; those who planned with Israel for the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement; those who sought to liquidate the PLO's political, administrative, military, and cultural institutions in Beirut; those who imposed with the force of the Israeli invasion and U.S. arms the unjust U.S.-Israeli peace agreement on Lebanon until the heroic Lebanese people tore it up; and those who have sought to kindle religious, sectarian, and political conflicts and to partition Lebanon into conflicting ministates under the control of Washington and Tel Aviv, or turn it into a state ruled by a racist minority under their tutelage — all these are bound to be reassured about the lives of the hostages and their nerves must have calmed down. Why do they not face the truth?

Why does not Reagan reckon with himself as a Christian, bearing in mind that the call for a return to Christian values was the leading topic of his election campaign? Why does he not admit his mistake in equating individual terror with national struggle? Why do they raise hell when a few scores of Americans are detained while Israel, their tool and strategic ally, sheds blood, invades, occupies, and annexes Arab lands. You, Mr Reagan, do you not consider the threat of intervention by the Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] in any part of the Third World, the invasion of Grenada, and the spilling of blood on Lebanese territory terror? Is it not imposing surrender on a heroic Arab people?

We do not support terror and violence for we are advocates of peace. But peace cannot be established without justice and without abondoning the methods of the jungle. Resorting to force and aggression and violating the peoples' national rights cannot eliminate terror.

National struggle with all means is provided for in the UN Charter, and nationalist terror can disappear only when international terror ceases.

AL-AHRAM Article Views Hijacking, Terrorism

PM251304 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 23 Jun 85 p 7

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah article: "Who Produces Terrorism in the Region"]

[Excerpts] The world has been holding its breath since the latest episode of terror began with the hijacking of the U.S. airliner with so many people aboard. The world has been following the plane from Athens to Beirut to Algiers and then back to Beirut. To this moment nobody knows how this tragedy will end and what will be the fate of the remaining 40 passengers. Ugly as it is, however, this unusual operation is a perfect example of the interlinked and complex situation and relations, and it shows just how complex the region's state of affairs is and how despair could produce a driving and struggling force equal to that of fleets, missiles, and bombers.

It is quite clear that the terrorist violence we are now witnessing in the region did not come out of a vacuum. The hijacking of the American airliner is not the first of its kind and it will not be the last despite the security measures taken now or in the future at airports and embassies not only in areas of conflict, war, and bloody battles but also in surrounding areas. Where the seeds of violence and terrorism are sown the fruits are bound to be more terrorism and violence reaped by those who deserve them and those who do not, by the guilty and the innocent, by the culprits and the victims, as in any war known to mankind.

We must admit that there is an unprecedented state of war in the Middle East. It is not an officially declared war, but the attitudes, policies, and measures of several parties in the region, particularly Israel and most Arab sides, are war moves dictated by the logic, requirements, rules, and exceptions of war. The battlefields at present are Lebanon and the area of the Iraq-Iran war.

If we are to understand the factors and causes which form the seed of violence and terrorism - - trying to understand does not necessarily mean approving or condoning the acts of violence committed in battlefields or under relations governed by the logic of war — we must view the attitudes which preceded and led to the hijacking of the American airliner; that is, if we do not want to go further back to the early stages of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the U.S. attempts to intervene and settle the Lebanese question the Israeli way.

It is known that in the final stages of the Israeli withdrawal Israel detained about 700 inhabitants of Shi'ite villages in Lebanon and then moved them to a military prison in Israeli territory as hostages to, first, ensure safe withdrawal of the Israeli forces and, second, use them as a means of pressure for some kind of settlement with the Shi'ite militia to guarantee Israel's border security. So the logic used by the hijackers now appears to be in harmony with the logic used by Israel when it took the Shi'ite hostages to its prisons and, before that, when it drove equal or greater numbers of Palestinians to Ansar camp and Israeli prisons. It later agreed to release over 1,000 Palestinians in return for the release of 3 Israeli prisoners. The only difference here is that the hostages are passengers of an American airliner who had probably never set foot in Lebanon or Israel and had never had any interest in Lebanon or anywhere else. All passengers of different nationalities have been released, except the Americans.

Why the Americans in particular? It is clear that in the general picture in the minds of the Arab people, especially those living in the areas of Arab-Israeli war or conflict, there is no longer any difference between the United States and Israel because their features have merged on many occaisons and issues to the point where only the politically highly sophisticated could detect a difference between them, and with difficulty. This general picture did not come from a vacuum either. Major and minor events point to it and confirm it. last May the U.S. paper *THE WASHINGTON POST* revealed a connection between the CIA and the Beirut car bomb which claimed 80 lives. It was said then that the operation was directed against Shi'ite terrorist elements who played a part in blowing up the U.S. Marines' headquarters. When car bombs explode after that — and many have already exploded in Beirut and elsewhere — it becomes difficult to tell whether U.S. hands, Israeli hands, Shi'ite hands, or any other hands are involved.

It is that general atmosphere which produces terrorism, violence, and despair. Israel has contributed to the creation of that atmosphere and was in fact the one which introduced its ingredients and tactics to the region. The wrong U.S. policies and miscalculations also cannot be absolved of responsibility for the results. The U.S. policies in Lebanon have produced endless complications and battles since the U.S. Administration refused to take a firm and categorical stand condemning the Israeli invasion, whether at the level of direct U.S. policy, or at the level of UN Security Council resolutions, or in relation to Washington's complete support and backing for Israel including economic aid, free military aid, and the free zone agreement.

Furthermore, the hijack crisis has produced a graphic demonstration of the strange relationship between the United States and Israel. The United States cannot bring itself to openly ask Israel to release the Shi'ite hostages detained in Israeli prisons in return for the release of the American passengers of the hijacked plane. U.S. President Reagan now finds himself in a critical situation no different from the situation which Carter found himself in during Iran's hostage crisis which brought him down.

[Israeli Defense Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin declared on U.S. television that the problem of the hostages of the U.S. airliner was a U.S. problem and that Israel had nothing to do with it. He added that if the United States were to submit a written request for the release of the Shi'ite detainees to enable the release of the hijacked plane passengers the Israeli Government would consider the request, otherwise Israel would not take a single step.

The U.S. Government, however, does not want to submit a request to its ally Israel despite the fact that the U.S. public wants it to do so. Washington would rather consider mounting a military operation, which could cost many more lives than the number of hostages, than exert pressure which might confuse or alter Israeli plans. This, rightly or wrongly, confirms the general impression of extreme U.S. care and sensitivity when dealing with Israel and its designs.

The atmosphere of international terrorism and violence which is spreading to the region was not invented by black Shi'ite brigades or unknown and mysterious groups operating in the dark under various names to serve narrow interests or undermine general national interests. These parties have merely taken advantage of and flourished in this atmosphere. It will not be easy to uncover and contain them and terminate their operations unless there is a tangible move toward real political stability with Israel, above all, abandoning the violence and terrorism it has planted in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories; but that is another matter.

Paper Views 'Differences' Between Syria, USSR

PM251308 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 Jun 85 p 1

[Zaghlul Al-Sayyid report: "Moscow Informed Al-Asad That It Is Inclined Toward Supporting Egyptian-Jordanian Initiative"]

[Text] London — Western intelligence reports in Moscow say that there are serious differences between Syria and the new Soviet leadership and that these differences broke out during the meeting between Soviet leader Gorbachev and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Western sources say that the new Soviet leadership wishes to pursue a more positive and more understanding line toward the Middle East crisis. It also wants Syria to end its policy of dividing the Palestinians and sowing differences between them as well as to end its hostility toward the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat.

Gorbachev told Hafiz al-Asad that Moscow supports 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestinians and that it is inclined toward supporting the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative, and feels that in the end the Soviet Union will participate in any peace talks for a final settlement in the Middle East.

Reportage on Hijacking of TWA Airliner

Birri: No Mediation Deadline

NC251448 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1426 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the affairs of the south, has praised the moves aimed at securing a national Islamic meeting. Birri [words indistinct] an effort to bring all the Lebanese ranks back together, not only between the Islamic ranks. The minister of state stressed his stand on the Arab summit and indicated that Lebanon would have agreed to attend the summit if the summit agenda was changed. Mr Birri also devoted much attention today to the hijacked American airliner. He hinted at some outbreak [as heard], without mentioning any details. He stressed that he was not a detainee at it, and not tied to any time limitation to end this mediation. [Sentence as heard]

Envoys Give Birri 'Ultimatum'

NC251654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1622 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that the Italian and British ambassadors conveyed a clear ultimatum to Minister Nabih Birri. The ultimatum contains some of the measures to be taken by the United States, in cooperation and coordination with most of the West European countries, if the Amal movement and the hijackers continue to hold the U.S. hostages and airliner. The sources said that the ultimatum contains the following points:

1. To impose a military siege on the areas of the southern suburb of Beirut and on other areas where the hostages could be proved to be held;

2. To impose a tight siege on Beirut International Airport and to stop air traffic there;

3. To freeze all financial deposits and place restrictions on [Ilqa' al-Hadhr] Shi'ite property in the United States and in some European countries, similar to that imposed on Iran;

4. To cancel the right of travel and work and to cancel residence permits granted to Lebanese Shi'ites in the United States and in some European countries; and

5. To boycott Shi'ite companies and lay off Shi'ite workers from U.S. and West European establishments.

These sources pointed out that such measures will be discussed by U.S. Vice President George Bush during his European tour, the first leg of which is Italy.

Birri on Envoy's Stand

NC251630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1547 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Within the framework of efforts being made to deal with the issue of the hijacked American airliner, British Ambassador in Beirut David Miers today met with Minister Nabih Birri. He said that his talks dealt with certain fundamental points, but he refused to give any details.

Regarding his country's position on the 'Atlit prisoners, the Italian ambassador, who also met with Minister Birri, said that the status of these prisoners is clear and defined by international law. They are entitled to be released, but not on the basis of exchanging them for others. The matter is not [word indistinct].

Minister Birri said: Actually, the British and Italian ambassadors firmly conveyed a stand more closely resembling a military solution [al-Mawqif al-'Askari] than a solution. Like us, they expressed their denunciation of the plane hijacking and the detention of the hostages.

But, contrary to us, they have not noted that a hijacking carried out by a state — as has happened to our sons in 'Atlit — is much more serious and important than a hijacking carried out by individuals and groups. We all reject one-sided views of such violations. We must take account of all aspects of the issue. The two ambassadors actually understood this position, and they expressed their readiness to contribute to any solution that could be found. We thanked them for their initiative.

Asked whether the Amal movement was about to set a deadline for this issue, he said: Some ways out are being considered. I am not in favor of keeping our sons and the hostages, and I am not tied by any time limitation. Just as I did not consult anyone when I accepted the mediation role, Minister Birri said, I will not consult with anyone when I get out of it except my conscience and interest.

Replying to a question, Birri explained that there has been an urgent request from the United Nations, and that he may receive UN representatives tomorrow.

Italian Envoy on EEC Concern

NC251320 Paris AFP in English 1317 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] Beirut, June 25 (AFP) — The Italian ambassador to Lebanon, Antonio Mancini, met today with Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal movement, to convey the preoccupation of the European Economic Community (EEC) with the situation of the 40 American hostages held here by Shi'ite militiamen, Mr Mancini said.

In Rome, an Italian source said Mr Mancini, as ambassador of the country currently holding the rotating presidency of the EEC, had asked for the release of the hostages seized aboard a TWA jet hijacked from Athens on June 14.

Mr Mancini said the EEC was particularly worried that the hijacking had come "at a crucial moment in the life of what we (the EEC) call the 'new Lebanon,' whose emergence we expected after the Israeli withdrawal."

"We had hoped that this would be a period towards peace and stability, towards the reaffirmation of Lebanon's importance in the Middle East," Mr Mancini said. "Now this episode has come

Despite all this, the United States has never stood at the side of the international community to denounce this series of terrorist acts and its perpetrators who are the real barbarians and enemies of goodness, civilization, innocence, and peace in the region, and in any place in the world.

Mr Venerable President: I agree with you that the hijacking of planes and their passengers is an inhuman, immoral, and a barbaric act, and I sincerely sympathize with the victims and their families who are tormented with horror and waiting.

I wish your country would sympathize only once with the millions of Arabs in Palestine and Lebanon, who are subjected to Zionist terrorism by means of U.S. money and arms.

Mr President, just for once sympathize with us so that none of us will feel that his thirst has been quenched when a U.S. citizen is killed or abducted.

We pray for the safety of the plane's passengers — a safety that we have been lacking for 40 years.

to stop all this, and that is why we are very worried for the future of this area."

He said he told Mr Birri, who is also the Lebanese justice minister, that "we cannot but condemn very strongly every operation that involves innocent people."

More than 700 Shi'ites held in the Israeli jail of 'Atlit — and whose release the hijackers want in exchange for the Americans — "deserve to be freed," Mr Mancini said, "but on a different basis" and not like "merchandise".

Syria Contacts Birri

NC251846 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] Beirut, June 25 (AFP) — Syria today sent a number of messages to Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Shi'ite militia, in an attempt to hasten the release of the 40 U.S. hostages held in the Lebanese capital, sources close to Amal said.

The sources said that a Syrian-brokered political solution which could lead to the release of the hostages, kidnapped in the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines jet 12 days ago, appeared to be brewing.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad promised President Ronald Reagan that he would use his influence on Mr Birri, acting as a mediator here in the negotiations, and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, to try to win the hostages' release.

The head of the Amal Political Bureau, 'Akif Haydar, today indicated that Amal was dropping its demand — rejected by the United States — that U.S. naval vessels move away from the vicinity of Lebanese waters.

He said Mr Birri regarded that as a minor issue and "not the key" to freeing the Americans, which remained the release of the remaining 735 Lebanese prisoners at 'Atlit prison in Israel.

Mr Haydar added: "There is no reason to kill the hostages. They are symbolic to us, and while the prisoners (in Israel) are safe and well, so are the hostages."

Birri Proposes Hostage Transfer

NC260947 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Beirut, June 26 (AFP) — Nabih Birri, the Lebanese justice minister mediating in the hostage crisis here, today announced the release of one of the Americans held in Beirut by Shi'ite Muslim hijackers.

Mr. Birri told a press conference at his home that he had decided to release Jimmy Dell Palmer, aged 48, after receiving a report from an International Committee of the Red Cross doctor who visited 37 of the 40 hostages overnight.

Mr. Palmer was present at the news conference.

Mr. Birri also proposed to the U.S. Government to transfer the remaining hostages to a Western embassy in Beirut, or alternatively to Damascus, as long as they remained there until remaining Lebanese prisoners held by Israel were released. Tel Aviv set free some 31 Lebanese Muslims on Monday, out of a total 766 held at 'Atlit prison.

At the press conference, Mr. Birri renewed his call for the withdrawal of the U.S. 6th Fleet off the Lebanese coast, and for guarantees that neither Israel nor the United States would attack Lebanese territory after the hostages were released.

Further on Birri Proposal

NC261049 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1043 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] At a news conference today, Minsiter Nabih Birri announced that one of the hostages will be released. He also put forward new proposals for resolving the issue of the hijacked plane. The most prominent proposal is that the hostages could be placed in a foreign embassy in West Beirut, such as the French or Swiss Embassy, provided that the government of that embassy would pledge that these hostages would not be released before the 'Atlit prisoners are released.

Minister Birri said that if the United States does not accept this offer, we propose that the hostages be moved to a fraternal or friendly state, such as Syria, provided that president Hafiz al-Asad will pledge that the hostages will not leave Damascus before the 'Atlit prisoners are released.

Minister Birri explained that if Washington does not accept Damascus, there is Tehran.

Minister Birri asked the U.S. authorities to keep their ships 12 miles away from the coast. He added that the U.S. President should pledge that there will be no aggression against innocent people even after the issue is settled.

At his news conference this afternoon, Minister Birri said that he received two calls yesterday. A person also visited him today. Birri said that he puts kidnapped French journalist Kaufmann and French researcher Michel Seurat at the disposal of the hijackers. In other words, they will be released with the American hostages on the same plane if the 'Atlit prisoners are released.

Minister Birri described U.S. threats to close Beirut airport as not serious. He expressed the belief that the real reason for issuing these threats is the approaching date of U.S. independence day on 4 July. He said these threats have created the real justification for the hijackers action.

He added: We do not fear terrorism or threats. We are not in Grenada. We are ready to defend our territories. We point out that this matter can only be solved with reason.

Minister Birri declared that he asked the International Red Cross [IRC] to visit all the hostages yesterday. The IRC did in fact visit the hostages and submitted a verbal report this morning, saying that Jimmy Palmer is ill. Therefore, we decided to release

him. He will leave for Larnaca in 30 minutes. We are also studying the health condition of (Lagros Mayer), and we will release him very soon.

Swiss, French Accept Proposal

NC261429 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Swiss Charge d'Affaires (Fermo Girosa) said today that the Swiss Embassy in Beirut has not been formally notified of Minister Nabih Birri's proposal on transferring the 39 hostages from the U.S. hijacked aircraft to a Western embassy, such as that of the Swiss or French. He said: We have not been notified of this request. We do not have a building suitable to receive the hostages. However, as this is an urgent issue, we will do the impossible and receive them.

Second Secretary (Jean Fedal) at the French Embassy told REUTER: We are ready to offer our services in this issue on a humanitarian basis, particularly when the lives of the hostages are concerned. He added that France is also seeking the release of French diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton, who were kidnapped last March.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut declined to comment on the release of hostage Palmer or on Minister Birri's remarks.

Birri Meets With UN Official

NC261316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri met today with UN Assistant Under Secretary Jean Claude Aime, in the presence of Amal movement Political Bureau member 'Ali al-Husayni. Their discussion centered on the question of the U.S. hijacked aircraft. Minister Birri said he welcomes the recent statement by the UN secretary general to the effect that Security Council Resolution 425 should be implemented and other UN resolutions obeyed. He said: We hope that this appeal will lead to the release of all of the detainees in 'Atlit.

Haydar 'Corrects' Report

NC251349 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] We have received a statement from Colonel 'Akif Haydar, chairman of the Amal movement Political Bureau, in which he corrected a report published by a Lebanese paper [not further identified] regarding a news conference he held with the foreign press at noon on Monday. In his statement, Col Haydar said:

The news conference which I held at noon on Monday, 24 June 1985, was addressed to foreign correspondents and was conducted in both English and French. Therefore, the Arabic text of the news conference as published in the local papers is a translation of the report carried by some news agencies. The translation is not accurate. I would like to correct the following:

I did not say that the Amal movement is unaware of the location of the six hostages. What I actually said is that I personally do not know their location nor the location of the other hostages. The statement made by the Amal movement leader about this subject will remain the true position of the movement. In reply to a comment linking the issue of the hostages with the Iranian will, based on the demonstration that was staged along the airport road in support of the hijackers, I said that Imam Khomeyni is the imam of the Shi'ites in the world, and that the issue of the hostages is an internal issue linked with our kinfolk detained in 'Atlit. Consequently, the report is incompatible with this reality.

Haydar on Hostages' Safety

LD251022 Paris Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] In Lebanon the release of 31 of the Shi'ites held in Israel yesterday has not meant much change for the U.S. hostages in Beirut: their wait continues. Despite everything, the most reassuring thing all the same is that the hostages are safe: at any rate, this is what is stated by Colonel Haydar, second in command of the Shi'ite Amal militia, with whom Bertrand (Vannier) [Paris Radio correspondent] met:

[Begin Haydar recording] They are in four or five groups — that is not the main thing. We do not intend to release the hostages (?scot-free) without anything in exchange but we have the word of the hijackers that all the hostages will be in safe hands during the period of discussions with the U.S. officials. And while we are still mediators in this matter we guarantee the security of all the hostages without exception: those who are directly before our eyes (?although) not under our control or those who are further from sight. Clearly, I know that it is hard for the hostages; I know that they are victims; I know that they are innocent. But that is how life is. I feel sorry for them, I really wholeheartedly want them to be released as soon as possible but it is something which is currently linked to something else which is just as important — of the same importance on the human level if you like. [End recording]

Al-Jumayyil, U.S. Envoy Meet

NC260853 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew at 1100 today. He reviewed with the ambassador the issue of the American hostages and the U.S. position — declared yesterday — to close Beirut airport and to blockade Lebanon if current diplomatic efforts fail to secure the release of the Americans.

Franjiyah Criticizes U.S. Stand

NC251608 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] At his news conference today in Zgharta, [former] president Sulayman Franjiyah denounced the criminal act lead-

U.S., Israel 'Warned' Against Hostage Rescue

LD251340 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jun (KUNA) — Syria today officially warned the U.S. Administration of President Reagan and also Israel against the consequences of carrying out any military operation to solve the crisis of the American hostages, which has been going on since the 14th of this month, and stressed that such action will be repulsed.

AL-BA'TH Views Possible U.S. Military Moves

JN250558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Must Calculate Its Steps Accurately" *AL-BA'TH* says: In view of the events of the past few days, there is no longer any doubt that the United States, in complete coordination and cooperation with Israel, is setting up the circumstances and means for a large-scale military operation against Lebanon, using the hijacked airliner as a pretext. There are many indications of this, such as the mobilization of its military concentrations, the dispatch of its naval units to the Lebanese coasts, and the activities of its planes over Lebanon. Other indications consist of U.S. Vice President George Bush's tour of several west European countries to improve what Washington terms as the means to confront terrorism in the region in general and in Lebanon in particular, and to obtain the support of its allies for any military move it may undertake, not to mention the fact that the United States and Israel have ignored all international mediations that were offered, particularly by Switzerland and Austria.

The reason for this U.S. stand is very well known. The Reagan administration and Israel have a bone to pick with both Syria and Lebanon. Not only were they harshly defeated in Lebanon at the hands of Syria, which remained steadfast and confronted them, but also all their current and future plans to liquidate the Palestinian cause are threatened with collapse in the same manner. Therefore, it is unlikely that Reagan and Israel would miss any opportunity or pretext, such as the airliner's hijacking, without attempting to exploit it for committing a new aggression to strike what Reagan has termed as international centers and forces of terrorism.

However, the United States and Israel must keep in mind that any military operation against Lebanon will be confronted with all available capabilities and means. In any case, this military operation will not be a quick operation or a picnic. We believe that both sides know this better than anyone else. The Zionist invasion 3 years ago and the U.S. and NATO involvement in Lebanon are the best proof. The hijacking operation is condemned and Syria's stand on such operations is known and clear. However, this operation cannot be compared to the crimes Israel has been committing in Lebanon and against the entire Arab nation. The United States and Israel must calculate their steps with complete accuracy, before undertaking any action or any foolhardy military action whose consequences will not be known.

Damascus Radio Program Discusses Hijacking

JN252259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2040 GMT 25 Jun 85

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[Text] Why are they raising a hue and cry against the hijacked U.S. airliner and why are they making threats with fleets and aircraft? What can they say to a usurped homeland and to a people whose happiness and future have been robbed by them? Regarding the hijacked U.S. airliner at Beirut Airport, Mahmud 'Abd al-Karim wrote the following report:

Ten days ago a U.S. airliner was hijacked to Beirut airport. All hell broke loose and cries of denunciation against terrorism and the hijackers and those behind them continued uninterrupted. Officials in Ronald Reagan's administration and the Zionist government embarked on a campaign of unprecedented military and political extortion and exaggeration in accurate and profound agreement with the Arab reactionaries represented by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, who sent cables condemning the hijacking, and with the imperialist West, which saw in the hijacking of the U.S. airliner an unprecedented crime. To be fair we must say that none of these, despite their multiplicity, raised their voices against the United States and Israel, which are usurping whole Arab countries and dear parts of our land and people. On the contrary, they view the United States as their destiny, protector, and guard of their agent ambitions. Thus, it is as if they are blessing what Israel and the United States have usurped from our homeland and the homelands of others.

Our concern here is not to defend the hijackers, who have their direct reasons, that is, the release of their fellow men and brothers in the Zionist enemy prisons, at a time when they are treating the passengers well and stating their readiness to release them once the Zionist officials free the prisoners of the Lebanese national resistance from the Zionist 'Atlit prison. What can any Arab say to them if this Arab deems it his duty to struggle for the freedom of those heroes who hoisted the Arab banner, liberated southern Lebanon and Beirut, and caused the Zionists' army and planes as well as the NATO soldiers to wallow in the muds of Lebanon?

Minister Nabih Birri said that the passengers are being well-treated and that he will stop mediating if the United States continues its military threats and if it rules out a positive solution to the hijacked airliner and the heroic Lebanese prisoners in the 'Atlit prison. Actually, Syria and the Lebanese nationalists want a comfortable end to the U.S. airliner incident. A few days ago a Syrian source said that Syria is exerting efforts to find a positive solution to the hijacking. Washington and Tel Aviv have so far ruled out any solution and insisted on a bloody solution and on sacrificing the passengers. Reports talk about a possible savage Israeli action. The movement of Zionist gunboats off the shores of Beirut yesterday and today is only an indication of this. Washington, for its part, moved its fleets and sent 1,500 Marines to Cyprus. Its warships are also approaching Lebanese territorial waters. Moreover, the U.S. officials' statements block the door to any positive solution. The United States is thus pushing matters toward a tragic end that is not desired by either the hijackers or those who seek a positive end to the hijacking.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* today attacked the United States and accused it of obstructing a positive solution. It said that the United States should give up the method of flexing its muscles, terrorizing peoples, and supporting Israel's illegal practices that ignore the simplest rules of law. Minister Nabih Birri called for keeping U.S. gunboats away from Lebanese waters. Meanwhile, observers said that Washington and Tel Aviv will be fully responsible for any tragic end to the hijacked airliner.

Finally, no struggler pursues terrorism as a method to obtain his rights, but the joint U.S.-Zionist policy of terrorism produces violent reactions by the Lebanese strugglers, which are manifested in violent and frank strikes to the unjust U.S.-Zionist policy that turned Lebanon into a ruin and tries every hour to hold sway over its people, land, and future. Washington should expect a generation, for which it has left nothing but wounds, to do anything to restore its rights, humaneness, comrades, and homeland.

Damascus Notes Al-Jumayyil-Shultz Contact

JN251925 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Beirut — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz dealing with the hijacked U.S. plane and the detained hostages. An authorized source in Beirut has said that President al-Jumayyil confirmed to Shultz that Lebanon would not agree on moving Lebanese citizens to Israeli prisons, and that he would not spare any effort to release them.

In the enemy's entity, the Zionist paper *HA'ARETZ* quoted unidentified sources as saying that scores of detained Lebanese citizens will be freed from 'Atlit Prison in the near future. There are about 735 detainees. The newspaper also claimed that Israeli security officials have prepared a list of those who will be freed, and that they are awaiting the Peres governemnt's decision in this regard. It is noteworthy that the Zionist enemy government had announced that it would not free the detained Lebanese under the pressure of the hijacked U.S. plane and the detained hostages.

Al-Asad Receives PNSF Delegation in Damascus

JN251934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation representing the leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] at 1315 today. It was led by [former] PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum and included: 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Exeuctive Committee member and official in charge of foreign relations in the PNSF; 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards organization-Al-Sa'iqah forces; Muhammad Khalifah, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee; Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Fatah provisional leadership; Ahmad Jibril, secretary geenral of the PFLP-GC; Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, official in charge of the PNSF's military committee and member of the Fatah provisional leadership; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front; Abu 'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the PFLP; Ahmad Ma'ruf al-Yamani, PLO Executive Committee member and the PNSF's secretary; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC and PLO Executive Committee member; and Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Struggle Front and the PNSF's information spokesman.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region and Palestinian affairs. The president emphasized to the delegation's members Syria's backing of the PNSF in its defense of the Palestinian people's rights and in its struggle to restore the unity of the PLO based on hostility to imperialism and Zionism. He also stressed Syria's support for the front's struggle against the schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestine question.

The president added that Syria is asserting its support for the PNSF politically, through various means, and is working to strengthen its military capabilities so that it can carry out its struggle in accordance with the methods it deems suitable. The president praised the efforts being exerted by the PNSF in cooperation with the Lebanese National Democratic Front [LNDF] and the Amal movement to stop the fighting in Lebanon and cut off access to the plot aimed against the Palestinian people and their cause.

The president stressed the importance of cohesion among the PNSF, the LNDF, and the Amal movement for the sake of confronting the Amman agreement between King Husayn and 'Arafat, which was concluded under the aegis of the United States, as well as confronting the bargaining that is taking place in accordance with this agreement to liquidate the Palestine question.

The president said: Syria will continue to exert efforts to promote cohesion among the PNSF, the LNDF, and the Amal movement and will bolster Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion. The president emphasized that the PNSF, the LNDF, and the Amal movement should be alert to plots that might be concocted to prevent cohesion among these forces and conspire against Lebanon and Palestine.

AL-BA'TH on 'Unlimited Support' for PNSF

JN260657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 26 Jun 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "More Cohesion Among National Forces," *AL-BA'TH* says: Leader Al-Asad has affirmed on more than one occasion that our battles with the enemy are continuing, since they are crucial battles between the defenders of a just cause and the forces of evil and aggression. These forces are now trying, under the treasonous Amman agreement, to conclude humiliating deals to liquidate the Palestine question.

In order to confront and foil their attempts, it is essential to bring the state of national and pan-Arab awakening to the highest level

of struggle and alertness. The current phase calls for unity and strong cohesion among fighters who confront the Zionist enemy and defend the sacred cause of Lebanon and Palestine. This defense can only be guaranteed by the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian struggle alliance.

The paper concludes: Leader Al-Asad's speech to the Palestine National Salvation Front delegation has affirmed our unlimited support for the national forces that oppose Husayn-'Arafat plotting — support which we are proud of and hope to reinforce, as it embodies the required alertness needed to defeat the capitulators and defeatists and their overlords who conspire against Arab causes.

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Peace Delegation

Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN241557 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Guram Yenukidze, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia and member of the GeSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Damascus today. Comrade 'Atiyah al-Judah, member of the Executive Bureau of the Peace Partisans Council, and several comrades of the Ba'th Party National Command received him at Damascus Airport.

Delegations Begin Talks

JN252112 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The National Council of Peace Partisans delegation led by Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, Ba'th Party National Command member and chairman of the council, and the delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace led by Comrade Yenukidze, secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia Central Committee and member of the GeSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, held their first round of talks this evening.

They had a friendly conversation and reviewed the latest developments in the region, international issues, and the strong relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Delegation Visits Al-Qunaytirah

JN251928 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 JUN 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jun (SANA) — A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Guram Yenukidze, secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia Central Committee and memebr of the GeSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah in the south.

Lebanon's Mufti, Delegation Arrive in Damascus

JN260919 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jun (SANA) — A Lebanese delegation arrived in Damascus this morning. The delegation includes Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of Lebanon; Rashid al-Sulh, former Lebanese prime minister; Zaki Mazbudi, Lebanese deputy; Dr Janil Kibbih, Lebanese deputy; Malid Salam, former minister; Husayn al-Quwwatly, director general of the mufti's office; and 'Ammar Khalid, the mufti's son.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by 'Siam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Commentary Outlines Conditions for Arab Summit

JN251558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, observers of Middle East events realize that the United States has entrusted the renegade regimes in the capitals of Arab darkness with the task of dwarfing the pan-Arab cause and replacing it with a number of causes that create more rifts in the Arab ranks. All of this is in the interest of Israel and its desire to hold direct talks, in accordance with which the cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict will be liquidated in a U.S. way. The current moves and activities in the renegade capitals prove that the United States has agreed with its allies in the region on forming an Arab bloc whose moves will be in harmony with U.S.-Zionist joint strategy. The Jordanian regime has developed its relations with the Camp David regime in Egypt to the point that a political, security, and military alliance has been achieved. This alliance is represented by Jordan's agreement to reconcile with Israel, and by the joint military maneuvers under the U.S.-Israeli umbrella. Now, the role of the fascist regime in Baghdad has come, so that the conspiratorial triangle will be a new force that will be added to U.S. pressure aimed at liquidating Arab struggle for Palestine.

One of the firm facts is that U.S. policy follows two parallel, complementary lines, while the United States is waiting for the Arab bloc that is loyal to it to be formed, it is also moving its fleets and putting its forces on alert in order to fulfill its commitments to protect any Arab regime that reconciles with Israel and concedes Arab rights.

The call for holding an Arab summit under the current Arab circumstances follows the course U.S. diplomacy has designed to rearrange the general situation in the Arab homeland according to the U.S.-Israeli plan, which is in alliance with the capitals of darkness and renegade forces in the Arab arena. If the Fes summit resolutions, which constitute the minimum Arab demands, were abrogated even before the ink dried and were bypassed by the Jordanian regime and the 'Arafatist leadership when both acceded to a separate deal with Israel and its U.S. ally, how will a new Arab summit achieve anything but new concessions that eliminate the components of Arab rights and weaken the Arab struggle?

Instead of holding an Arab summit, it would be better, before anything else, for the Arab rulers to assert their commitment to what they signed at their conferences in Algiers, Baghdad, and Fes, and to officially announce their rejection of capitulatory plans and separate deals made as Al-Sadat would have them.

We, in Syria, believe that there is a pressing need to hold an Arab summit. However, the Arab summit should not be in the form of concessions and plans that are being prepared by the U.S. White House and the Zionist Knesset. We support an Arab summit that consolidates the Arab stand and makes our masses have more confidence in themselves, and not one that weakens this confidence, instills despair in the Arab citizens, leads them to a position that deprives them of the components of their existence.

In light of the rebellion against the resolutions of the past summits, the suggested summit only means ratifying what King Husayn agreed on with the Camp David regime in Egypt and what King Husayn agreed on with his twin, Yasir 'Arafat, regarding the liquidation of the Palestine cause on the basis of U.S. proposals and the Zionist Peres plan. The concordance of the summit call with all forms of U.S. military and political moves shows the results of such a proposed Arab summit. It is clear that the United States seeks Arab concessions before the UN General Assembly convenes, so that they will become a U.S. weapon against the Arab cause in front of the highest international body.

All this evidence in the comprehensive plot calls on all Arabs who are honest about their nation's causes to rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility, and to realize that all those who call for holding negotiations with Israel are the same parties who call for an Arab summit to agree on their political trends and treacherous behavior. Because Syria represents the living conscience, and because it is aware of the nature of the U.S.- Zionist attempts, Syria does not support a summit that is not preceded by a frank and clear commitment to the resolutions of the Algiers, Baghdad, and Fes summits. Neither does Syria support a summit that ratifies the Amman agreement and supports the bloc which is a U.S. agent and in harmony with Israel in its alliance with the U.S. plans.

Syria, which adopted strategic balance as a slogan and an objective, will not agree to a summit that turns into a rostrum from which the plotters defend their treason. Syria supports a summit which condemns deviants, rejects the behavior of those who planned negotiations with Israel, and condemns those who shouldered the responsibility of expanding Camp David and expanding U.S. influence in the Arab homeland.

Ba'th Party Official Returns From CSSR

JN252303 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Izz al-Din Nasir, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and president of the General Federation of Trade Unions, returned to Damascus this afternoon following a visit to Czechoslovakia.

Peres Interviewed on Hostage Crisis in Beirut
PM250823 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 19 Jun 85 p 5

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Cordelia Edvardsson: "Hostages in Beirut an Urgent Problem"]

[Text] Jerusalem — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is at a crossroad. He has made an offer of peace negotiations to King Husayn of Jordan, he is making efforts to solve the Tabah conflict with Egypt and to put new life into the peace with the same country. But to be able to realize his political visions he will probably have to say farewell to his government partner, the Likud Party.

It was a tired Peres who yesterday [18 June] received *SVENSKA DAGBLADET* for a special interview at a hotel in Caesarea, where he allowed himself a rest of an hour or so in the middle of one of the exhausting trips through the country he makes every week. Exhausting for any politician, but especially so for Peres who so totally lacks the ability to kiss babies that are thrust at him, engage in repartee, and generally make contact with strangers.

He has kicked off his shoes and socks, but has not touched the fruit and wine which the hotel has put out for him. He would probably much prefer to be at the Socialist International meeting in Stockholm and meet old friends, but this is something he has denied himself. In Israel's current difficult economic situation he wants to set a good example, he said. Since the new $300 travel tax was introduced, 120,000 Israelies have cancelled trips abroad.

"I am proud of that," Peres said.

"Getting the economy on its feet again and keeping the door open to the peace process are our most important problems at present," he said. "But basically we do not have an economic, but a political problem. We are the only democracy which spends 25 percent of its GNP on defense, but we cannot cut down on our security requirements.

"However, we have succeeded in reducing inflation from 1,000 percent to 250 percent. And we also have to make a choice between lowering living standards or creating unemployment."

Speaking of the curse of unemployment Peres becomes almost impassioned. It is something against which the whole of his socialist ideology revolts.

"A tragedy," he calls it.

"No one in Israel is unemployed, no one is hungry, and no one is without medical care," he said.

These are things on which he does not intend to compromise.

But at present Israel also has another urgent problem. The freedom of the U.S. hostages who are a still being held by the hijackers in Beirut depends on whether the demands of the latter are met. The demand that Israel should release around 700 Shia Muslims being held in an Israel prison camp. Does Israel intend to do this?

"I have learned how disturbing it is when someone from outside makes statements in a situation which is very delicate for others," Peres replied. "It is those responsible for saving the hostages who alone must decide what decisions they will make."

This means that Peres has played the ball into the Americans' court. Asked what he would do if the Americans asked him to release the Shia Muslim prisoners he refused to answer. Nor does he think there is any connection with the fact that a few weeks ago Israel gave into what many people are calling blackmail and handed over over 1,000 prisoners to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine High Command in exchange for three Israeli soldiers. But he went dark with rage when I pointed out that Yitzhak Shamir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has recently said that this might have been a mistake. The anger at Shamir's lack of loyalty is visible, but Peres did not give it verbal expression. That is not Shim'on Peres's style.

He admitted that reconciliation and cooperation still have a place of honor in his vocabulary.

But for how long? Where does he draw the line? Would he sacrifice the chance of taking the peace process out of the deep freeze or the chance of peace talks with Jordan on the altar of the government of national unity? That is something else which Peres was unwilling to answer. But sources close to him say that the moment of truth will soon come for the Likud Party and its leader, Foreign Minister Shamir.

After years of negotiations over the ownership of the little strip of sand of Tabah, to which both Israel and Egypt lay claim, Egypt is now a calling for arbitration as a precondition for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel and a possible summit between Peres and President Mubarak. Peres is demanding that Israel agree to international arbitration while Shamir is opposed to this. Not so much because he is afraid of the outcome, but more because an active peace with Egypt is not in his interests. Such a peace could easily lead to an expansion of the peace process and consequently to Israeli concessions on the West Bank.

In a speech in the Knesset, Prime Minister Peres called on King Husayn of Jordan to come to the negotiating table within 3 months. But does he really think that Husayn can come without PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat?

"It is by no means certain that he can come with 'Arafat," Peres replied.

"'Arafat wants to talk to the United States, not to Israel. Nevertheless, I think that it is possible to solve the Palestinians' problems, but it is difficult to do so with the Palestinians' organization, the PLO.

But it is the only organization they have, is it not?

"Yes, but it is an obstacle to its own people, for those who it says it represents," Peres replied.

"But I think that King Husayn wants peace. He needs peace and we need peace. But the king must make a very tough decision. He must decide to pay the price of peace."

But Israel too will have to make some difficult decisions, Israel too will have to pay the price of peace. The most recent opinion polls show that the rightwing extremists have a favorable wind. If there were an election today both the ultranationalistic Tehiya Party, which rejects any form of compromise over the occupied areas and would ideally like to annex them, and racial agitator Kahane's Kach Party would increase their number of seats. Is Peres not worried by this development?

"It is true that some Likud voters have moved to the right," he replied. "One of the reasons for this is undoubtedly the continued terrorist activities (on the same day as the interview bombs were found in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv). But if like us, you have a very strong political right wing and a very strong left wing you have to build up a strong and convincing center. That is what we are trying to do. No, I am not worried; being worried is not a good political method. I am working to try to change the situation."

This was probably a typical Shim'on Peres answer. And then he hurried off again to struggle with the economy and with his Likud coalition partner, to give another interview, visit an Israeli-Arab village; but above all, he tries to keep the door open for the peace process in the Middle East. He is firmly convinced that he has gotten a foot in that door.

Peres on Letter To Reagan, Cooperation With U.S.

TA251852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has sent a letter to President Reagan urging cooperation between the two nations to end the Beirut hostage crisis. Peres also said that Israel stands by the United States in its struggle against terror. The prime minister was speaking during a tour of Druze communities in the north. Vivien Royston reports:

[Royston] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed today that he has in fact sent a letter to the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, in connection with the TWA hostage crisis.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I sent a letter, yes.

[Royston] What did it say?

[Peres] It's a private letter so how can I publish it? [End recording]

[Royston] However, when questioned later Prime Minister Peres denied that the letter had spoken of increased cooperation between the United States and Israel. I talked about relations, cooperation, friendship that exists between Israel and the United States, stressed the prime minister. I said, continued Peres, as I really feel, that our concern for the safety of the hostages is no different from our concern if they were our own hostages. I see this as a struggle by the whole enlightened free world against the ugly phenomenon of terror. And, in this, Israel stands by the United States.

Prime Minister Peres went on to say that to his knowledge there has been no progress in the hostage crisis, no change in the U.S. positions, and no request of Israel by the United States. Prime Minister Peres was speaking to reporters while a guest at the home of the Druze spiritual leader, Shaykh Amin Tarif.

Shamir Interviewed on UNIFIL Role, Hostage Crisis

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE Interview

PM250845 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 10 Jun 85 p 5

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir by Mogens Kofod-Hansen in Copenhagen: "Israel Wants To Prevent New Kidnappings in Lebanon"]

[Text] The double kidnap affair in southern Lebanon did not leave Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a minute's peace during his journey before he arrived in Copenhagen yesterday amidst major security precautions. He had hardly been installed in his hotel when the telephone lines from there to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, to the United Nations, and to others involved in the dramatic events began to glow.

"There is a completely new development afoot in the Finnish affair." With these words Yitzhak Shamir interrupted the first question put by *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE*'s correspondent in an exclusive interview Sunday afternoon [9 June] which was delayed because of the many urgent telephone calls. But it was a relaxed minister who said:

"I have just heard from the United Nations that Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has decided to select a high-ranking French officer from UNIFIL to investigate the force's behavior in connection with the kidnapping of men from the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]." (It was the capture by Shi'ite Muslim soldiers of 11 members of the Israeli-supported, predominantly Christian army of southern Lebanon, which made the ASL take 23 Finnish UNIFIL soldiers hostage.)

Yitzhak Shamir told *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* that the French officer will have finished his investigation tomorrow. "He has been given orders to meet the ASL's chief, General Antoine Lahd, and Lahd has said that he is ready to cooperate. This is the first time there has been cooperation between the ASL and UNIFIL. It shows that there are doubts about the UN force's behavior. Lahd's people claim that their 11 men were kidnapped with the help of UNIFIL troops."

The Israeli foreign minister said that the UN secretary general's step could help to defuse "this unfortunate problem." "We believe that cooperation between UNIFIL and the ASL could help to pacify the area. It is in our interests to avert such episodes, and if they do arise, to help to find a peaceful solution."

In accordance with this policy, Shamir rang the Finnish foreign minister Saturday to talk to him about the matter.

ing to the explosion in Tripoli, which killed and wounded a large number of the city's sons. He said: This is not the first time that the criminal hand has struck against Tripoli. Mosques and churches in Tripoli have already been the scene of explosions, and many innocent people have been killed. The perpetrator of such actions, he added, is the same, and the targets are the same.

Franjiyah praised the Syrian president's visit to Moscow. It was one of the most successful visits, he said, because the relationship between Syria and the Soviet Union is based on mutual respect. He expressed hope that this trip will positively reflect on the Lebanese crisis.

Franjiyah criticizes the U.S. stand on the hijacking of the American airliner. He questioned the reason that makes the United States apply its opinions to itself [as heard], as well as the reason behind giving U.S. weapons to Israel. He asked: Was the U.S.-backed invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the destruction of its capital and cities, the killing of children, and the sabotage of institutions a civilized act in the U.S. view? He reiterated his previous demand that Lebanon sever its diplomatic relations with the United States until that country puts an end to Israeli aggressions against our territories and stops all Israeli interference in our political affairs.

He added that the delay in implementing the Damascus meeting results is being created by the presence of Israeli agents, who thwart every positive step and who force the Lebanese to immigrate in accordance with Kissinger's plan, a plan which Israel is implementing.

Hezbollah Reportedly Moves 'Kidnapped Foreigners'

NC261028 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1019 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Hezbollah party has moved the kidnapped foreigners it is holding in Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks to new locations: Al-Khawwam hotel, Ra's al-'Ayn Centre, Junta camp, in addition to Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message on Arab Summit

NC251928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today received a message from Moroccan King Hassan II concerning his call for an emergency Arab summit conference. The message was conveyed by Moroccan Ambassador to Lebanon Mohamed al-Tahar Bennani. President al-Jumayyil and the ambassador discussed developments in Lebanon and the Arab area, as well as Lebanon's position on the issue of an Arab summit.

President al-Jumayyil thanked the Moroccan king for his message and initiative, and emphasized that Lebanon has always participated in the Arab summits and responded to any invitation by the brothers. However, it regards the Palestinian camps issue as a purely internal affair. Therefore, Lebanon cannot participate in an Arab summit that will not hold a comprehensive discussion and the agenda of which does not include the problems of the area as a whole, including the Lebanese problem.

President al-Jumayyil took advantage of this meeting with the Moroccan ambassador to raise the topic of the Arab states' duties toward Lebanon, reminding him of the aid which was approved at previous summit conferences and which has so far remained frozen. President al-Jumayyil pointed out that this aid had been decided as a result of the difficult circumstances through which Lebanon was then passing. Under present circumstances, Lebanon is in need of this aid more than ever before. The Arab states must pay their share of this aid, since it was allocated to help Lebanon emerge from its ordeal.

Junblatt Rules Out 'Solution' With Regime

NC251001 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 2

[Report by Khaldun Zayn al-Din from al-Mukhtarah]

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and minister of tourism and public works, has declared that a just solution for Lebanon's problems is currently out of the question and that the possibility of a new Israeli military action against Syria and the national Lebanese Forces, exists. Junblatt described the steps taken on the ground with regard to the issue of the Palestinian camps as useful.

These remarks were made during a speech that Junblatt delivered in Al-Mukhtarah after receiving a delegation from Al-Manarah in Al-Biqa', which included over 100 persons.

Junblatt delivered the following speech:

You know that as far as basic political demands are concerned, our opinion is that a just solution is currently out of the question as a result of the Lebanese Phalangist regime's unchanging policy. The regime is maneuvering at the Arab level, but it has not changed. It is still receiving orders from Israel and the United States. It is preparing for new military action. There is also the possibility of a new Israeli military action against Syria and the national forces in Lebanon.

Basically, a solution with the Phalangist party is impossible. It is impossible to mix fire and water. It is impossible for a Lebanese nationalist to co-exist with a fascist, dynastic, and tyrannical ruler called Amin al-Jumayyil, who represents lies, deception, tyranny, and robbery of the people's money.

His latest innovation is security pluralism [al-ta'addudiyah al-amniyah] in order to consecrate political, administrative, and economic partition. It is known that the Phalangists' areas are richer than ours. He wants to officially steal the people's money.

Events in the Palestinian camps were unfortunate. With the help of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, Syria, and the Amal movement, we reached a solution satisfactory to all. This solution preserves everyone's dignity and removes the sons of the one rank from the bloody fighting that only benefits the Israeli and Phalangist enemy.

I believe that the steps taken on the ground are useful and positive, but new plots should be forestalled, whether in Beirut, Tripoli, or Sidon. The Tripoli incident was horrible, an ugly and unbelievable crime. He who hits in Bi'r al-'Abd can hit in Tripoli and in Sinn al-Fil. No one knows. They are the organs ... the foreign intelligence that is tampering with our country. They are striking everywhere under various slogans. They are striking everywhere. Everyone must be cautious. Every citizen must, in fact, be a guard. A national, Nasirite, Arab base has always been our starting point and this premise will remain the source of our direction. We are from the Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and the Kamal Junblatt school. We will continue to be so forever.

Mufti Khalid Heads Delegation to Damascus

NC260825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, left Beirut for Damascus this morning, heading a delegation for talks with senior Syrian officials on the current situation. The delegation will convey to officials in Damascus an integrated security and political view for dealing with the security situation in West Beirut and with developments resulting from the war in the Palestinian camps.

Mufti Khalid is accompanied by Rashid al-Sulh; deputies Dr Jamil Kibbih and Zaki Mazbudi; Engineer Malik Salam, chairman of the Reconstruction and Development Board; and Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli, director general of the mufti's office. Mufti Khalid declined to make any statement.

Al-Murabitun Forces Attack Amal, 6th Brigade

NC251934 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A series of attacks took place against Amal and the 6th Brigade in West Beirut between 2100 and 2130 tonight.

At 2100 there was a rocket attack against an Amal center near Imam 'Ali Mosque on Tariq al-Jadidah. At 2130 there were four similar attacks against Amal and the 6th Brigade in Sabra, at the electricity company, the Al-Dana fuel station, and the vegetable market.

The Al-Qasimiyah group of the Al-Murabitun forces has claimed responsibility for these attacks.

Syrian Brigades Reportedly Withdraw From Al-Biqa'

NC261031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Syrian forces in the eastern sector of Al-Biqa' have withdrawn from the area between 'Ayn Shamsin and Al-Mays. The withdrawal involves the 63d, 64th, and 65th Brigades.

[Kofod-Hansen] All this is of significance for Israel's security policy situation. Your Army has now withdrawn from Lebanon almost completely. But do you think that Israeli military personnel should continue to be stationed with the ASL?

[Shamir] What we need is security along the border and in the northern part of our country. We have decided to withdraw our troops from Lebanon and we hope that in the space of a very short time there will not be a single Israeli soldier remaining on the Lebanese side of the border. We also hope that our security can be maintained, for we have noticed a strong tendency among the Shia Muslim population in the area to wish to prevent the PLO or others from unleashing terrorist activities against us.

Asked whether it is not Syria — which still has a large army in Lebanon — which finally decides whether there will be terrorist attacks on Israel from Lebanese territory, Shamir replied: "As yet it is still unclear to us what position the Syrians are adopting. Perhaps this will become clear in a few weeks or months. But hitherto they have tried to avoid becoming directly involved in attacks on us. They have always used others. But of these "others' in Lebanon, the most important now are the Shi'ites, and we know their attitudes. Perhaps there is some hope therefore."

[Kofod-Hansen] Do you think that Israel's security is better today than it was 3 years ago?

[Shamir] Yes, definitely. The PLO is no longer there. The PLO has grown weaker every day. What the Lebanese Shi'ites have been doing in the last few weeks has been aimed at liquidating the PLO's presence in Lebanon. If the PLO were again to want to set up a state within a state , I do not think they would succeed. It is of crucial importance for the PLO to have a territorial base close to Israel, for without one it is impossible to direct serious blows against us. But 'Arafat's organization does not now have bases in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, or Egypt.

On the subject of Jordanian King Husayn's proposal for an international peace conference and the monarch's statements that the PLO was ready to take part in a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel, Shamir said: "We know all about the 11 February agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat. In my opinion it is an obstacle to peace. The Israeli Government has invited Husayn to negotiate peace without prior conditions, because such conditions would weaken the chances of an a agreement. However, as yet the king has not responded. Instead he has reached this agreement with the PLO and made his plans public and here we a see two prior conditions:

"First, that the PLO should take part in negotiations — and Husayn knows very well that no one in a position of responsibility in Israel can accept this.

"Second, the call for an international peace conference, with the participation of the Soviet Union, Syria, and the PLO, among others — and the king k. ows very well that Israel, the United states and several other Western countries cannot agree to this."

[Kofold-Hansen] Since there is an unwillingness to negotiate with the PLO, is there then a chance of finding other Palestinian leaders who would dare to or want to negotiate?

[Shamir] Yes, we think so — if Husayn is willing to negotiate with us. It is after all in their interests.

Shamir stressed that despite ideological and other differences between the government's two main groupings, the Labor Party and the Likud, there is full agreement in the Cabinet on the attitude toward Jordan and relations with the Palestinians, including the rejection of the PLO, whose main objective is still the destruction of Israel. The two party groupings are also agreed on adhering to the Camp David agreement's offer to the populations of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of full autonomy with free democratic elections for the Palestinian Arabs, followed by negotiations between their elected representatives and Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the United States about the regions' political future. "We think that this is the most realistic way to make progress."

Finally the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that economic problems — with an inflation rate that is now about 400 percent — are by far the most important question for Israel, more important that the security situation, which does not present many serious challengs at present. But he said that given the necessary changes in the country's economy — and tough interventions which would be politically difficult — israel could work its way out of the crisis in the course of 2 to 3 years.

"The chances are good," he said, "because we have built up a very advanced industry with an eye to increased exports and we have a highly developed agriculture." However, for agriculture, the chance depends on the terms the EEC will offer Israel after the community's enlargement to include Spain and Portugal from 1 January next year. This is one of the high-priority topics which Yitzhak Shamir will be discussing with Danish ministers and the representatives of the political parties in the Folketing [parliament] in the next few days.

TWA Airliner Hijacking

TA252024 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2010 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 Jun (ITIM) — "It would be difficult, at this moment, to say how Israel could help the Americans, but clearly we are partners in this war against terrorism in the Middle East and all over the world. We cannot live in this region and sit back with our arms folded with an air of indifference while terrorist attacks are being carried out against our ally the United States, and along our border," Yitzhaq Shamir, vice prime minister and foreign minister, said this evening.

The minister was interviewed on Instructional Television's "New Evening" ['Erev Hadash] program and he noted that in the past few years our relations with the United States have been so close and intimate that there is no need for coyness; we "can speak our minds outright and openly in a dialogue."

The minister expressed the hope that a solution will be found to the affair of the hijacked U.S. aircraft and that all its hostages will be returned without capitulation to terrorism.

"U.S. public opinion must be taken into consideration, as it affects U.S. foreign policy as well. Thus we must heed it, but not

too much, because public opinion is known to express itself in waves. However, we must explain our positions to the U.S. public, which we have done in the past few days. I hope that from our standpoint the situation has improved, and that we are better understood," he said.

Regarding the release of the 31 Shi'ite detainees, he said that he had agreed to that move because it does not entail submission to terrorism; rather, it was one of the many moves we are in the habit of making with regard to the Lebanese detainees temporarily held in Israeli prisons, and the time had come to release some of the them. At the same time, we most definitely oppose capitulation to terrorism.

"The release of more Shi'ites in the future is a possibility that should not be ruled out, but we will have to take the various developments connected with this affair into account as well. We will make sure we do not forfeit even one bargaining chip upon releasing them," he said.

The fact that we had released terrorists in return for our prisoners of war may have come back to haunt us and is being used as an argument against us, but the two incidents are totally unrelated. The earlier case did not involve hostages, but prisoners held by a cruel enemy. Negotiations to obtain their release had been underway for years, but certainly it was a painful experience which we are bound to be reminded of from time to time, Mr Shamir said.

"I cannot imagine a dialogue with the Shi'ites and with 'Amal', since these bodies are not ready for an open and direct dialogue. However they understand that we have common interests, and it is clear to them that it is in their interest — and even more in the interest of the population residing near the Israeli border — to have normal ties with Israel and to avoid using their territory for terrorist attacks against Israel. This is where we share common ground, and this identity of interests must be expressed in concrete form, even though, unfortunately, it does not have any formal and open political manifestations," he said.

Regarding Tabah, he said that he believes we must insist that, in accordance with the peace treaty, the conciliation stage not be forgone, that is, if we get down to negotiating on the Tabah issue at all. It is necessary, first of all, to implement normalization in every respect, in accordance with the peace treaty. In other words, the Egyptian ambassador must return to Israel, trade and tourism relations must be normal, and hostile propaganda must cease completely. Only then will it be possible to really engage in an indepth examination of the Tabah issue by way of conciliation.

In reply to a question on whether Prime Minister Peres had accepted his position on this matter, as rumored, he said: "To this very moment I have no idea what you are talking about. There have been no additional meetings beyond what you had reported on last week. There are differences of opinion. However, the issue is not so high on our agenda that it must feature in every debate, day and night."

Reaction to U.S. Threat of Beirut Blockade

TA260442 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel would consider positively any request from the United States to take part in a blockade of Beirut Airport. He said the United States knows Israel is prepared to cooperate in any matter connected to the hostage situation. Shamir was speaking before a meeting of the Freemasons in Tel Aviv.

In the Knesset, the U.S. announcement that it is considering a blockade of Beirut had mixed reactions. Reporter Jack Katzenell says Victor Shemtov, of the left-wing MAPAM Party, who usually takes a dovish line, says the United States presumably knows what it is doing. Minister Ari'el Sharon and Knesset Member Dan Meridor, both of the Likud, refused to comment. This was the reaction of Labor Cabinet Minister Moshe Shahal:

[Begin recording] [Shahal] We have to know the details. I think that the United States is entitled to do whatever it would decide. It doesn't need our approval, but I think that we have to know the details and then react publicly.

[Katzenell] The White House said this will be a blockade of the airport and the sea port. Do you think this is a wise move?

[Shahal] Well, I cannot give my reaction. I believe that we have to know the details and then to give any reaction. I am sorry.

[Katzenell] Thank you very much. [End recording]

Mordekhay Virshubsky, of the Shinuy Party, did not think the American announcement would help solve the crisis over the TWA hostages.

[Begin Virshubsky recording] I am not overimpressed. I don't think it will bring any improvement to the situation. I don't think that, under such situations, a show of strength is of any use. I think, first of all, everyone should try to get the prisoners released and think about any other activities. I don't think thatshowing this mighty hand of the Americans will serve any purpose. [End recording]

Rabin on Cooperation With U.S. Against Terrorism

TA251550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel has expressed readiness to cooperate with the United States in combatting international terrorism. Mr Rabin emphasized that nevertheless the initiative for any operation must come from the United States, since the United States, more that any other country, is responsible for the release of the hostages from the TWA aircraft. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the defense minister made the above statements this afternoon in the course of a ceremony of dedication of a memorial for 31 fighters from the crack Northern Command special operations unit, the Egoz Patrol [disbanded some years ago]. The memorial was erected on the Hermon slopes, on the road to Neve Ativ.

Commentary Notes Strained Relations With U.S.

TA250806 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 85 pp 1, 3

[Commentary by David Landau: "U.S. and Peres are 'Not Communicating' "]

[Text] The Beirut hostage crisis has highlighted an ongoing deterioration in communication between Jerusalem and Washington which is worrying well-placed observers in both capitals.

This deterioration is exacerbated by Premier Peres's failure to push his proposals on Tabah through the inner Cabinet. In Washington this failure is regarded as a blight on the recently-revived hopes of extending the peace process to Jordan and the Palestinians.

During the present hostage crisis, communication between the two governments has been spasmodic and replete with misunderstandings, it is reliably learned. Each side has sought to "read between the lines" of the other's public rhetoric and private media-manipulation. There has been little frank and confidential consultation.

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's angry appearance on ABC Television last Wednesday night was one reflection of this failure by the two allies to communicate confidentially. Israel was chagrined at what it saw as the administration's behind-the-scenes bid to stir up public opinion against Jerusalem.

Yesterday's release of the 31 Shi'ites from 'Atlit was an example of Israel acting as it believes the U.S. would wish it to act; but there was apparently no prior effort to consult, or even to ascertain that Washington would in fact welcome the move.

Plainly there are psychological factors involved here. The top Israeli policy-makers, having been badly shaken by the reactions both at home and abroad to their release of the 1,150 Palestinians last month, may be finding it difficult to discuss the present crisis openly and intimately with the highest echelons in Washington. The Israeli leaders know they are held, in part at least, to blame for America's predicament.

On a logistic level, some observers are attributing the deterioration in communications between the two countries to the departure from Tel Aviv of Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The Israel Government maintained a unique intimacy with him, and through him to Washington.

The charge d'affaires, Robert Flaten, if only by virtue of his lesser rank and shorter service here, does not have a similar relationship. The Israeli Embassy in Washington has not had it for years. Since Peres's assumption of the premiership its role has waned still further.

A recent visit to Washington by Peres's foreign policy adviser, Nimrod Novik, produced some useful exchanges (and duly rankled with the regular embassy staff there).

But the malaise is much deeper than the mere modality of close and confident communication. It is part of what Washington perceives as the general decline of Peres's strength and standing over the past month or more — a period which was to have been crucial in advancing Middle East peace prospects.

Coincidentally, and unfortunately, the decline seems to have set in since Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to the region in the second week of May. His talks at that time in Jerusalem, Cairo and Al-'Aqabah fortified his resolve to "reengage" American effort and energy in Middle East diplomacy.

At first Peres was able to cooperate by managing, despite incessant Likud pressure, to avoid an explicit veto of all past members of the "Palestine National Council" as possible negotiating partners.

Shultz for his part stayed firm in ruling out the PLO itself, and in opposing an international conference.

But the premier's inability to push the rapprochement "package deal" with Egypt through his own inner Cabinet was a severe blow. Peres himself has argued all along that progress with Egypt is a necessary prelude to progress on the broader peace front.

It is seen this way in the American scheme of things too. Peres's failure to lead his government to a deal with Egypt renders him, in American eyes, quite incapable of maneuvering towards a negotiation involving the Palestinians.

The Americans feel, too, that this is how the Arab moderates will inevitably react to Peres's perceived weakening at home.

Washington is acutely conscious, too, of Peres's mounting economic troubles as the economic package deal approaches its expiry.

And, whether as a cause or an effect of Peres' weakness, Rabin is perceived as hardening his stance against Washington's ideas for progress on the Jordanian-Palestinian front.

Shultz's disappointment with the Labour leadership was compounded by King Husayn of Jordan's failure to offer an unequivocal commitment to "non-belligerency" during his visit to Washington. This was to have bound both Jordan and the ('Arafat-led) PLO for the duration of the envisioned negotiations — and to have impacted favourably on Israeli public opinion.

The upshot of all this is that the "Husayn initiative" is presently in uncertain abeyance. The king himself is said to be in a depressed and disenchanted frame of mind. He has not delivered (cannot deliver?) a list of Palestinian negotiators.

There is no certainty that the projected meeting between Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and a Jordanian-Palestinian team will take place in Amman next week or the week after, as originally scheduled.

The Americans, meanwhile, are eyeing with increasing anxiety — and disturbingly decreasing intimacy — the sagging resolve of the other putative peace partner, Shim'on Peres.

HA'ARETZ on Trend in U.S. Public Opinion

TA251046 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 85 p 9

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "Friendship Has a Price"]

[Text] When Prime Minister Shim'on Peres appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" last Sunday, the NBC political correspondent quoted a question raised by a passenger who flew with him on an airliner: "Why can't Israel — which receives such a tremendous amount of military and economic aid from the United States — repay the United States and unilaterally release the Shi'ite detainees?" When U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was asked by ABC network news "whether Israel will not be held responsible in the event of harm being done to the hostages," he answered: "This may indeed be the case." President Reagan, in a news conference he gave last week, also managed to convey the same message: "The United States is a target for terrorists because of the friendly relations between us and Israel." A poll conducted by ABC and *THE WASHINGTON POST* indicates that 34 percent (15 percent were undecided) believe the United States should "tone down" its relations with Israel to avoid terrorist attacks, and more than 50 percent believe Israel is not doing enough to bring about the release of the hostages. Former President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski joined the chorus, calling on Israel to take the initiative and release the Shi'ite detainees.

Israel's "guilt" in entangling the United States in a new incident in the Middle East requires no proof in the United States. The nature of questions raised by interviewers and commentators, their sarcasm and tendentiousness, prove that this "guilt" is considered self-evident. Now they only want to know why Israel is behaving as it does. In public statements, the administration emphasizes that it has not appealed to and has no intention of pressuring Israel. Indeed, the feeling is that the administration is prepared for a long waiting period and will not agree to capitulate or to bargain with the hijackers or their representatives, and will not ask Israel for any favors. Administration officials say it will be inconvenient to have Israel gradually release the Shi'ite detainees under the present circumstances — before the hostages have been released — because such a move would be immediately interpreted as U.S.-Israeli capitulation to the hijackers, and no explanations linking the release of the detainees to the security situation in southern Lebanon or to the justice of Israel's judicial system will be able to change this interpretation.

The U.S. Administration's firm position boosts national pride in the United States and, at the same time, enables the U.S. public to point at the two culprits: the Shi'ites and Israel. We can learn about our share in the guilt, as seen by the U.S. public, from the concerned reactions of the Jewish organizations. Jewish leaders read U.S. newspapers, watch television, and can see the accusing finger pointed at Israel and, through it, at U.S. Jewry as well. Talk of Israeli ingratitude, Rabin's arrogance in admonishing Reagan, the fact that Israel agreed to release 1,150 prisoners in exchange for 3 Israeli soldiers while it is not willing to make a gesture for the release of 40 Americans, have extremely serious ramifications among Jewish activists, who see themselves as the spearhead in the struggle to defend Israel's image.

Many Jewish organization leaders directly appealed to Israel and spoke with the prime minister's and defense minister's offices, asking them to unilaterally release the Shi'ite detainees "for the good of Israel and its relations with the United States." They warned that if Israel does not acquiesce, great damage will be caused to Israel's relations with the U.S. Administration and to its ability to count on U.S. aid in the future, and that there will also be a rift between the U.S. public on the one hand and Israel and U.S. Jewry on the other. Others have warned of the possibility of a new wave of anti-Semitism and of the fact that Israel is playing into the hands of its enemies in the United States. The administration — which has a consistent position in this respect — regards the warnings of the Jewish organizations unfavorably.

A State Department official told me: "They contact the Israeli Government, quote us as having said things we did not say, request things we did not ask for, and thus create the impression that the administration is exerting pressure. I personally had to call several Jewish leaders and ask them to stop saying things in our name or inaccurately describing our position. I can understand their concern about the consolidation of hostile public opinion in the United States, but they certainly have no right to distort our position to convince Israel to act in a manner contrary to what we deem fit."

However, the administration's position — which at least testifies to coordination with Israel — even if it is sincere, does not calm the Jewish public in the United States. A Jewish activist told me: "Imagine a scenario in which the hijackers start murdering a hostage daily. The guilt will not be laid at the feet of Reagan's firm policy, but rather on Israel's obduracy in insisting on not being the one to solve the crisis. However, even if they all remain alive and go to the Lebanese beach every day, how long do you think the U.S. public will wait before shouting that it is Israel which holds the U.S. hostages? If this situation develops, Israel's position in the United States will be worse than it was after the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps massacre. In such a case, the issue would not be an inhuman act which Israel supposedly aided. This would be interpreted as a direct Israeli blow to U.S. citizens who paid taxes to make possible all the billions in aid given to Israel."

This scenario is no longer unrealistic. The questions hover in the air. At this stage, it is hard to determine the extent of the damage done to Israeli-U.S. relations in general, and to relations with the administration in particular, and the extent to which the affair and Israel's reactions will influence bilateral cooperation. However, at this point there is no room for expressions such as "avalanche" and "erosion." We must remember, though, that the U.S. public is beginning to pose new questions at us, questions to which we must quickly put an end.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Welcomes Sweden's Palme to Algiers

LD252313 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpts] Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has been in Algiers since this morning on a 2-day friendly and working visit, at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. The president welcomed Palme this morning at Houari Boumediene.

The first round of Algerian-Swedish talks took place soon after his arrival. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi has given a dinner in honor of the Swedish prime minister. Palme will hold a news conference tomorrow.

Talks Continue

LD260400 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Algerian-Swedish political talks continued this evening with a private meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, and Olof Palme, Swedish prime minister. After a dinner banquet given by President Chadli Bendjedid in honor of the guest, talks resumed between members of the two delegations.

The Algerian side consisted of brothers Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Mohamed Roughi, member of the Central Committee and minister of hydraulics, environment, and forests; and Abdelaziz Kara, Algerian ambassador to Sweden.

The Swedish side consisted of Carl-Johan Aaberg, secretary of state for foreign trade; Hans (Balgro), diplomatic adviser; Madam Irene Larsson, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and Jean-Christope Oberg, Swedish ambassador to Algeria.

Swedish-Algerian political talks led by the two prime ministers were held in the afternoon at Jinan al-Mithaq.

Bendjedid Holds Talks With Mali President 24 Jun

LD250852 Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Algiers, 25 Jun (APS) — Private political talks were held last night between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, and President Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali.

President Moussa Traore arrived yesterday afternoon in Algiers on a working and friendly visit. President Chadli Bendjedid and his wife were at the airport to welcome president Traore and his wife on their arrival.

French Prime Minister Continues Visit to Algiers

'Fruitful' Talks End

LD251257 Algiers Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Algerian-French talks ended yesterday evening after a tete-a-tete conversation between Laurent Fabius and Abdelhamid Brahimi which was then extended to members of the two delegations. The talks, termed frank, friendly and fruitful by Algeria's guest, dealt both with bilateral and international relations. Before leaving Algeria today it remans for Mr Fabius to meet a number of other Algerian officials and to give a press conference during which he will certainly have to reply to a number of questions from journalists, including some relating to children separated from one of their parents.

Fabius Concludes Visit

LD252125 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] French Prime Minister Mr Laurent Fabius left Algiers early in the afternoon at the end of a 24-hour visit. He was seen off by his Algerian counterpart, Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi and by several members of the government. In a statement made at the airport, Mr Fabius spoke about the results of his visit to Algeria:

[Begin recording] We have dealt with political problems, on a multilateral plane as well as on our cooperative relations. This enabled us, both during the meeting with President Chadli and that with the prime minister, to review these issues, to see each other's position perhaps more clearly, and to clarify a few equivocal points. Therefore, I believe that, on the political plane, the talks were useful. On the economic plane, we examined the state of our cooperation, noting that it is fruitful. There are undoubtedly here and there either surges or delays. We have decided to meet to discuss housing and transport [words indistinct]. On the human plane, we discussed issues linked with the situation of Algerians in France. I had the opportunity to tell my interlocutors about our very strong condemnation of everything that could be called violent racist behavior. [End recording]

In turn, Algerian Prime Minister Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi summed up the results of Algerian-French Talks:

[Begin recording] This brief visit [words indistinct] because it enabled us to review international topics and bilateral cooperation. It was an additional opportunity for government officials to sum up the main question of interest for our region, the Maghreb as well as the Middle East. We also discussed matters pertaining to bilateral economic cooperation, which, as you know, has developed considerably particularly since the meeting of the two heads of state, which created a frame of reference for all our cooperation and concerted action. This approach has been expressed through all our political and economic actions and in effect has been translated not only into concrete [word indistinct] and positive results, but also into the need to organize direct contacts between officials of the two governments. Such contacts would enable us to assess the results so far and also the possibilities of consolidating cooperation and organizing regular meetings

aimed at concerted action on the main issues of mutual interest. [End recording]

At the end of the press conference held late in the morning by Mr Laurent Fabius, the French prime minister noted the limitations of his brief visit to Algeria: One cannot expect spectacular results from a visit like this, he said. It was aimed above all at reviewing a whole series of political, economic, and human issues. On the political plane, the French prime minister discussed with the Algerian officials the problems regarding Africa, particularly the Chadian and Saharan problems.

Answering the journalists' many questions on the French stand on the Saharan (?question) and on the region, Mr Fabius described it as an equitable one that includes the people's right to decide for themselves, particularly the right to express this through a referendum organized in complete freedom and under indisputable international control. Asked about the sale of arms and the dispatch of military advisers to Morocco, Mr Fabius expressed the belief that France has done nothing that could step up the conflict and added that differences should be settled peacefully. Regarding economic cooperation, the French prime minister said it is in the interest of both people to cooperate and to continue what was started in 1981-1982.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Sees Members of Union Authority

LD252258 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 8, June 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received this afternoon members of the Libyan side in the Union Authority of the Arab-African union who prepare to travel to Morocco to attend the first meeting of the union authority due to be held next week in Morocco.

The leader asked them to convey his greetings to his brother King Hassan II and the members of the Moroccan side in the Union Authority.

The leader also expressed his wishes that this great act should be successful. He gave them instructions for their positive contributions in the works of the authority which is considered one of the fundamental institutions of the Arab-African union.

The meeting was attended by dr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar the secretary of the general people's congress and the secretary of the general people's committee's affairs in the general people's congress and the resident secretary of Jamahiriyah in Morocco.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With General People's Committee

LD260953 Tripoli JANA in English 0911 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal, 9, June 26th, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution met yesterday with the General People's Committee as part of his indicative role for the implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses.

Al-Turayki on Palestinian Camps, Iraq-Iran War

PM251621 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 85 p 3

[Report on interview with General People's Committee Secretary for Foreign Liaison Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki by Qasim al-Samawi in Baghdad — date not given]

[Excerpts] Libyan General People's Committee Secretary for Foreign Liaison Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki has announced his country's agreement to attend the expected Arab summit conference on what is happening in the Palestinian camps in Beirut. He emphasized that the responsibility is a general, pan-Arab responsibility. What is taking place in Lebanon, he said, is sectarian infighting which we neither accept nor condone. In an exclusive interview with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* at the end of his official visit to Iraq, Dr al-Turayki said: We may have an opinion about what is happening between the various Lebanese groups, but we absolutely do not condone unjust attacks on the Palestinians on any pretext. That does not mean that there have been no Palestinian excesses, but those excesses are no excuse for extermination. Only Israel wants to exterminate the Palestinians.

Al-Turayki condemned the Amal movement's actions against the Palestinians in the Beirut camps. He said: We strongly condemn these actions because nothing justifies the murder and slaughter of the Palestinian people. Therefore we as Arabs must stop these massacres. The Arab countries adjacent to the Zionist entity were supposed to open their borders to the Palestinians to enable them to liberate their country, but instead we have seen even those whom we once applauded for resisting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon hitting the aggressor and the victim at the same time, which is unacceptable.

The Libyan minister added: We have held intensive contacts with Syria and I have personally discussed this matter with President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials. We have asked them to take effective measures to stop the spilling of Palestinian blood, because the greater responsibility for stopping the war of annihilation falls on their shoulders.

On rumors about a possible Libyan role to end the Iraq-Iran war, particularly since Libya began changing some of its views, Al-Turayki said: We made efforts before the war and after the outbreak of hostilities. We maintained from the very beginning that those who killed or were themselves killed in that war would be the losers, because it is unacceptable for Iraqis and Iranians to kill one another for any reason. However, our efforts were neither accepted nor encouraged by either side. We said that the Iraqi and Iranian armies should be facing the Zionist enemy, not each other.

On his lengthy talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on the last leg of his Arab tour, Al-Turayki said: We undoubtedly discussed the war and everything of interest to the nation. We exchanged views. We may not agree on everything happening in the region, but we do agree on the importance of consultations and of continuing these consultations between the two countries.

In reply to a question on Libyan-Saudi relations, the Libyan minister said: We have been in continuous contact with the Saudi brothers since brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's recent visit to the Saudi Kingdom on a minor pilgrimage. The two countries are exchanging delegations and holding consultations all the time on current Arab and Islamic developments, with a view to finding the best ways of dealing with the various problems.

Turkish Industry, Technology Minister Arrives

LD252154 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cahit Aral, Turkish minister of industry and technology, and an accompanying delegation, arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Turkish minister, in a statement at the airport, expressed his country's desire to develop and consolidate relations in all fields with the people of the Jamahiriyah.

JANA Invites Progressive Forces To Foil U.S. Schemes

LD250914 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 85

[JANA Analysis: Warning About Irresponsible American Operations — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 8, June 25th, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The whole world follows with concern the naked serious attempts of President Reagan's government to make use of the operations against its interests all over the world for the purpose of escalating the campaign of organized state terrorism.

U.S. Government official's statements about the use of armed blackmail methods against all those who reject the American policies in various parts of the world and especially in the Arab region and Central America are being reiterated these days.

The government of President Reagan aims at manipulating the show of increasing fury against its policy in many countries for its freedom to launch direct act of aggressions including armed aggression against nations that look towards accomplishing their freedom and sovereignty.

U.S. official, headed by President Reagan, during the past days attacked, using distasteful language and rudely, the nations that do not accept the American way for themselves to pursue. But the true intentions of this American Government had been reflected clearly in the recent statements by Vice-President George Bush in a meeting of the Presidential guard in which he confirmed the hostile attitude of the U.S. Government towards the liberation movements in the world.

Bush frankly pointed out the American dominating logic when he declared the possibility of dealing what is called "prevention blows" to the bases of what Washington calls "terrorists". The government of President Reagan which, mobilised its battleships and hundreds of its marines opposite the Lebanese shore, stepped up its armed presence in Central America. These days it is working slowly towards involving the largest number of other sides and get them involved or even use them as a cover for serious irresponsible terrorist operations apart from putting them in the service of the C.I.A.

National, progressive and peace-loving forces are invited to foil the dangerous American schemes and expose the repeated American slanders that aim at a cheap blackmailing of world opinion to justify their destructive activities against the countries and forces that struggle against the policy and greeds of Washington.

The state of violence and tension some arenas are witnessing must not in any case be used as a cover or an occasion to carry out its attack against the true forces of freedom.

MOROCCO

Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Angola

LD252035 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Morocco and Angola have decided to establish diplomatic relations. In this context the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Information issued today the following communique: Out of the desire of the Moroccan Kingdom and the Angolan People's Republic to develop and strengthen their ties of friendship and cooperation and develop bilateral relations on the foundations of the internationally recognized principles in international law, noninterference in internal affairs, mutual respect, and reciprocal privileges, both countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Receives French General Lacaze

LD252058 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani received this evening General Jeannou Lacaze, chief of the General Staff of the French Armed Forces, who today began visit to Morocco that will last several days. The meeting was attended by Moulay Zine Zahidi, the minister accredited to the prime minister in charge of economic affairs; General Idris bin 'Isa, inspector general of the Royal Armed Forces; and the French ambassador in Rabat.

Before this, Gen Lacaze was received at the headquarters of the General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces by Gen bin 'Isa in the presence of the secretary general of the National Defence Ministry [name indistinct], Colonel Akhira, inspector of the Royal Navy,the military delegation accompanying Gen Lacaze, and the ambassador of France to Morocco.

Visiting Zairian Official on Ties With Rabat

LD251848 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Mukolo wa Mpombo, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation in Zaire, told newsmen at Sale airport before his departure from Morocco this morning that he had delivered a message to His Majesty King Hassan II from

President Mobutu Sese Seko dealing with the distinguished bilateral relations between the two countries, which have been consolidated since the 1960's. He also noted Morocco's support of Zaire in critical circumstances.

Moroccan stances, the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation continued, have led his country to affirm its solidarity with Morocco in its just cause — the issue of the Sahara. He pointed here to Zaire's suspension of its activities in the OAU because of the violation of the principle of legitimacy. The Zairian official explained that he had affirmed to his majesty yesterday evening that Zaire will continue suspension of its participation in the African organization until its reasons to do so are eliminated.

Mr Mokolo wa Mpombo explained his country's stand vis-a-vis the current situation in the Middle East in light of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Zaire and Israel, and the visit paid by President Mobutu Sese Seko to Israel. He stressed that Zaire's resumption of relations with Israel must not be mixed with Zaire's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East. Mr Mokolo said that this stand is based on the support of the UN resolutions, whether they were taken by the General Assembly or the Security Council, concerning the problem of Jerusalem and the Palestinians. In addition to that, his country still upholds the international recommendations that advocate the right of self determination for the Palestinian people and the establishment of their independent state on their homeland. The Zairian official stressed that this stance has been communicated to Israel.

The Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation was seen off at the airport by the Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

SUDAN

SPLA-Government Meeting Fails to Materialize

EA251706 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A high-level meeting between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] High Command, represented by Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuan Bany, one of its members, and a special government delegation and which was scheduled to take place at Nasir in Upper Nile a few days ago failed to materialize.

This was revealed to Radio SPLA by the official SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] spokesman who went on to say that Major General 'Abd al-Azim Siddiq and Brigadier Peter Mabel Riak including others had failed to show up at the fixed time and place. The spokesman added that the SPLA High Command had agreed following earlier contacts to meet the two government officers on the basis of its declared commitment to dialogue with members of the Sudanese Armed Forces who are willng to talk to the movement inside the Sudan and not outside it borders or in foreign capitals.

As part of its preparation for the event the SPLA had made the necessary arrangements to ensure safe landing for any aircraft that would bring the government officers to the rendezvous, the spokesman was quoted as saying.

Commenting on the abrupt reversal by Siwar Al-Dhahab's government of its previous decision to conduct the meeting, the spokesman said that no explanation for what actually happened has been accorded yet by the government. He however concluded by saying that the government's conduct has now confirmed our fears that the military regime in Khartoum is not really interested in any dialogue with the SPLA-SPLM despite its talk of peace and negotiations.

Siwar al-Dhahab's government is gravely mistaken to believe that the key to a purely internal Sudanese rpoblem could be found in foreign capitals, the spokesman said.

Numayri Extradition Request Based on 1902 Agreement

EA250902 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab [name indistinct], chairman of the investigation committee on the leaders of the may 1969 coup d'etat, said that the committee will take all necessary measures to extradite the desposed president to the Sudanese Government with a view to submitting him to criminal proceedings in his capacity as leader of the 1969 coup and perpetrator of many crimes which require questioning in accordance with the penal code.

He said that the request for extradition will be made in accordance with the extradition agreement which was signed between the Sudanese and Egyptian Governments in 1902 and which is still in effect. It stipulates the commitment of each of the two countries to hand over to each other anyone who has committed a crime against it which carries a penalty of 6 months or more if one country requests that a person be handed over. He added that the committee hopes that the Egyptian Government will adhere to the clauses of this agreement and implement them by handing over the deposed president, Numayri.

Sudanese-Tanzanian Committee Meets 25 Jun

JN251637 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 Jun (SUNA) — Ibrahim Taha Ayyub, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the fifth session of the Sudanese-Tanzanian consultative ministerial committee, addressed the committee's meeting here this morning. He welcomed the two sides to the meeting, explaining the recent changes in the country as a result of the Sudanese people toppling the most dictatorial system in the African Continent. He touched on the agreements and the cooperation protocols between the two countries, stressing the importance of preserving them. He pointed to the two countries' roles in regional and international circles, especially in the OAU. Regarding the economy, he stressed the importance of revising the world economic order, because this order is unfair to developing countries. At the end of his speech, he praised the Tanzanian leadeship and President Julius Nyerere and his role in promoting relations between Sudan and Tanzania.

Mustafa Nyanganyi, Tanzanian minister of international cooperation and head of the Tanzanian side, made a speech in which he praised the relations between the two countries. He said that cooperation between the two countries will help in promoting citizens' lives in both countries. He pointed out both countries' efforts to achieve development and economic cooperation, and to free the economy from all forms of subservience.

Nyanganyi said that exerting efforts in the cooperation and economic spheres is the only way to solve the problems of the Third World. He noted the need for these countries to work for the unity of their joint objectives. He pointed out the efforts being exerted by Sudan and Tanzania to achieve Namibia's independence, solve the Palestinian problem, and end the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Constitution, Dialogue

JN211546 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jun (SUNA) — In a statemen to SUNA, Dr al-Habr Nur al-Da'im, one of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood Party, said that those who want to take away legislative authority from the Transitional Military Council have no right to do so. He pointed out that the Muslim brothers are against such a step. He added that there is no sovereignty without a legislature, that the country's affairs will be handled properly only through dialogue and consultation, and that the Islamic consituttion is the one which the party endorses.

Dr al-Habr added that during the transitional period, the Muslim Brotherhood will accept the 1956 constitution, amended in 1964, after making some necessary additions, that some of the September laws enacted in 1983 are Islamic and others are positive, and that the party supports Islamic law. Regarding the roles that political parties must play now, he said that the parties should organize themselves, define their programs and plans to confront the country's problems, open channels of dialogue on national issues in the political arena, and acuqaint citizens with their duties at this stage.

Journalists Group Condemns Colleague's Arrest

JN251753 Khartoum SUNA in English 1744 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 25 (SUNA) — The Journalists' Association condemned today the arrest of the journalist Hamid Abu Bakir, and decided to submit a memorandum to the ministers of culture and information, and interior and the police general inspector, calling for investigation on the incident.

The association also decided to boycott the police news until the investigation takes place.

The journalists affirmed the incident is an attack upon freedom value and the popular revolution. [Sentence as received]

It is worth noting that journalist Hamid was arrest during a police campaign to evacuate the capital from vagrants and mobs.

Trade Unions Call for Price Reductions

JN251918 Khartoum SUNA in English 1732 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 25 (SUNA) — The Trade Unions Allaince called for reducing prices of production inputs represented in oil and prices of essential food commodities, especially bread, sugar, and edible oil.

The alliance affirmed in a statement released here today its refusal for submission to the World Bank and defunct regime policies and urged the cabinet to immediately respond to people demand and reduce the prices of essential commodities.

The statement said the alliance appealed for promoting people's standard of living.

Anya Nya Urges Southern Groups To Join Talks

JN251749 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 25 (SUNA) — Anya Nya today issued a statement appealing to Sudan's People Liberation Army (SPLA), the Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLM), and the other southern groups opposing Numayri's regime to join the peace talks with the new government here.

The statement which was signed under the name of Hoth Gor Luak [Spelling as received] the member of Anya Nya II Executive Committee, said that the national front of Anya Nya II and its military wing decided to appeal to the Army and SPLA to join the peace talks to halt the blood bleeding and alleviate people's sufferings, pointing out that the current situation requires the conducting of dialogue. The statement said that since it became possible for any party to display its views southerners need to exploit this opportunity to show their views to the government.

The statement said that Anya Nya I did not fight for ideological reasons and secession, but it demands a federal system and calls for equality among citizens.

The statement called on all national parties for a peaceful conference that include all parties to reach a permanent solution to the southern question.

SPLA Troops Break Resistance in Jonglei

EA251726 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Good afternoon, listeners: This is First Lieutenant Nyal William Deng bringing you the following important announcement:

Recent reports reaching Radio SPLA from its correspondent in southern Upper Nile and Equatoria administrative areas suggest that Bor Town in Jonglei Province is now on the verge of falling into the hands of the SPLA. These reports say that SPLA units from Cobra Battalion under the command of Maj Bona Abang have broken enemy resistance at all its defensive positions in Bor.

The house of Ngor Nyal Deng on the banks of the River Nile that has been serving as the headquarters of the remnants of the

government troops has now been completely destroyed. In addition, an adjoining barge used as a lodging quarters for troops, as well as a store for food and ammunition, was also burnt down.

The enemy soldiers are reported to have been driven by panic following the attack by SPLA forces to the point where they opened fire upon themselves out of confusion. They are also said to have fired on the citizens inside Bor town.

Our correspondent, who has promised to furnish us with more details of the operation as soon as they become available, said that tall columns of smoke rising from the still burning barge and the ruins of Ngor Nyal Deng's house, which is visible for miles around. [Sentence as heard].

In a related development, our correspondent also disclosed that on 23 June 1985, Cobra Battalion destroyed and Sank *Jonglei* and *Torit*, two river steamers laden with government troops and military hardware.

Rad [Thunder] Battalion, on the same day blew up and sank another steamer called *Malik*, which was also carrying military personnel and equipment. In both incidents all people on board have been presumably killed. There are no reports of any survivors the correspondent said.

Commenting on this, the official SPLA-SPLM spokesman was positive that the two steamers with their human cargoes had been sent by the military government of Siwar al-Dhahab as part of its major offensive against the SPLA, aimed at opening up the river route between Malakal and Juba.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: Defense Minister Derides Defense Wall

LD241428 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Tifariti (SDAR), 24 June (APS) — The Saharan Defense Minister Mr Ibrahim Ghali met on Saturday in Tifariti in the Saharan liberated territories, the representatives of the international press to whom they deeply dealt with Morocco's decision to build up a fifth wall of defense (of 600 kms) which, he said, "aims at ensuring a little bit more security" for some possible investments in the mines of phosphates in Bu Craa on the coast, very rich in fishes". [Sentence as received]

Mr Ghali indicated in this regard that Saharan fighters "will thwart this decision" and would prevent the construction of this wall, adding that: "The longer are the walls, the weaker is the defense of the monarchist forces".

"By way of proof, he said, since the beginning of works, the Saharan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) succeed in destroying an important number of war material to Moroccans by making explode at least 110 mines." [Sentence as received]

The Saharan defense minister also referred to attacks launched by combattants of the Polisario Front against the Moroccan troops of occupation, as the one of 14 June in Lefkah (in the region of Oued Eddahab) which resulted in 141 dead, 165 wounded and 9 prisoners.

These prisoners were presented to journalists who interviewed them. It springs from their declarations that they have been captured at about 10 km behind the wall.

They also recognized that soldiers and officers are living behind these walls, due to protect them, in a daily anguish. Before, an invisible and elusive "(?enemy)." [sentence as received]

On another turn, they stressed that since the advent of "the walls strategy" the feeling of isolation is still more felt by the Moroccan troops due to a scatter of soldiers aggravated by problems of the supply crops.

On another turn, Mr. Ibrahim Ghali, questionned by the press on the end of the Morocco Saharan conflict declared pessimist because he said, the Morocco's king "shows no political will and answers by an increase of tension to our peace proposal." [Sentence as received] Finally, speaking about the mobilization of Saharan peoples in zones controlled by Morocco, the Saharan defense minister qualified it as "satisfactory" in spite of the Moroccan repression.

Military Operations Against Morocco Detailed

16 June Attack

LD230810 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] According to a statement issued by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture, 27 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 30 others were wounded during an attack launched 16 June by the ALPS on three Moroccan defensive positions. This attack resulted in the destruction of six defensive positions, one fuel storage tank, and a significant quantity of weapons.

102 Moroccans Reported Killed

LD230941 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Western Sahara — In the Western Sahara, 102 Moroccan soldiers have been killed and 40 others injured following operations carried out by the Saharan People's Liberation Army in the area of (Shadliyyah).

Communique Issued

LD251912 Algiers APS in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A communique issued yesterday by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture stated that on 22 June a unit of the Saharan People's Liberation Army attacked three positions of the Moroccan Army in the Joubaylat el-Beyad region near Guelat Zmour.

The communique added that the Saharan fighters encircled and occupied the positions of the Moroccan Army, killed or wounded 120 enemy soldiers; destroyed 3 vehicles, 1 ammunition dump,

and several trenches; and captured a heavy 14.5mm machinegun, a 75mm mortar, and an 87mm mortar.

The communique also stated that a Morrocan noncommissioned officer, Sergeant Nani Abdelhamid was captured during the attack.

ETHIOPIA

Party Member Departs for Bulgaria, Hungary

EA252252 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Comrade Tesfaye Tadese, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee member and chief editor of *SERTO ADER* today left for Sofia, Bulgaria, at the invitation of the organs of the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of Bulgaria and Hungary for talks and exchange of experiences.

In a statement concerning his journey, Comrade Tesfaye noted that the invitation by the editors in chief of these organs for closer relations between the Central Committee organs and to exchange experiences based on the joint agreements between WPE and the Communist Parties of the two countries which cover various sectors of cooperation will be given great regard.

Comrade Tesfaye said that during his tour he will hold talks with editors and various sectors related to propaganda and agitation and will acquaint himself with the activities being carried out in those countries. He added that the talks to be held will facilitate joint efforts and exchanges of experiences. Comrade Tesfaye noted that after his tour of Bulgaria he will proceed to Hungary and hold talks on similar matters. He added that in the future he will make various tours and hold talks beneficial to achieving better work in general.

SOMALIA

Ministry Official Details Cholera Epidemic

LD252143 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The director general of the Contagious Diseases Department of the Health Ministry, Dr Ahmad Sharif Abass today at a press conference held at the Health Ministry Headquarters in Mogadishu disclosed that 6,210 people had contracted cholera and subsequently treated since the outbreak of the disease in the north-west region. One thousand two hundred and sixty-two people died of the disease out of whom 683 died during the first week of the epidemic outbreak. Challe Ahmad Sharif Abass said these deaths were due to the fact that the disease was undetected at the early stages of the epidemic and that those affected by the disease were unable to receive medical attention due to lack of doctors.

The director further went on to say that the epidemic is spreading in refugee camps in Hargeisa and Borama. However, the Somali Health Ministry and international organizations are continuing with the activities to contain it. He further called on the world at large to supply further food aid to the refugees in Somalia so as to overcome the malnutrition, diarrhea and vomiting which kills 19 people daily, mainly children under (?five) years of age.

Challe Ahmad Shariff Abass said a new influx of refugees numbering 110 have arrived in refugee camps in the country. He added that there is no food even to feed the old refugees, and that they posed a threat to the economic and health conditions of the society. It was, therefore, imperative for international organizations to urgently provide assistance so as to avert the accelerating crisis.

The director said the new arrivals in the refugee camps in some parts of the country have caused inconveniences because the UNHCR officials were not aware of their arrival for the past year. This has resulted in the death of 15 out of 151 arrivals at the Jalalqsi and Luuq refugee camps.

Challe Abass clarified that Somalia was in no position to sustain the new influx and take care of old refugees. Somalia's economy has badly been affected by the refugees, Therefore, Somalia proposes the following points:

1. That there be urgent delivery of food, fuel ar l other basic necessities to refugees affected by cholera.

2. That the UNHCR and other UN related organizations set up camps at so-called border points to examine the health of refugees.

3. Somalia further calls on the UNHCR to condemn Abyssinia for not providing care facilities and not assisting people under its rule and that it should be compelled to build camps for taking care of such people in its territories.

Challe Ahmad Sharif Abass said Somalia fully respected un laws ensuring the safety of refugees and was totally against anybody who threatened the livelihood of people living in its territories.

Radio Halgan: Mogadishu Attacks Civilian Communities

EA251047 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Reliable reports from Togdheer region confirm that the terrorist Siad Barre regime launched an attack on the nomadic communities in areas south of Burao town last week. The reports say that the Somali civilians in the area bravely defended themselves from the regime's troops who had arrived in 14 vehicles, killing 27 soldiers and wounding many others. The civilians lost 11 men while 15 others were wounded. The reports add that in the latest engagement, which took place on 21 June, and which lasted from 0800 to 1700, the civilians, with reinforcement from the Somali national movement, succeeded in driving the enemy off.

Radio Halgan: DFSS Soldiers Clash With Troops

EA250824 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Sixty soldiers of the bankrupt regime of Siad Barre were killed and 122 others were wounded in an attack launched by the fighters of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] 9th Geneneral Aynanshe Division on 11th Brigade of the 21st Division in (Mirtilay) Abud Waq District of Ghel Gudut Region on 8 June. The DFSS fighters captured huge quantities of light weapons as well as modern heavy artillery guns. The

continuous attacks by the 9th and 15th Divisions of the DFSS on bases used by Siad Barre to oppress and massacre the Somali masses are in response to the sacred obligations of the Somali opposition to save the Somali nation.

UGANDA

SUNA: Rebellion Occurs at Army Infantry School

JN251916 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kampala, 25 Jun (SUNA) — SUNA learned today that there has been a rebellion at the infantry school of the Ugandan Army in Magamaga near Jinja. A source close to the Ugandan Government, who asked not to be identified, said that the developments which took place in the area at the end of last week were not the result of an attack by guerrilla forces, but a rebellion in the Ugandan forces stationed in the camp because an Army unit did not obey orders to move to the area of operations. This led to a clash between two wings in the school. The source added that the security situation in the country is deteriorating [words indistinct]. The source pointed to the statement made by Ugandan Vice President Paulo Muwanga on 22 June in which he announced the killing of three Ugandan Army officers at the hands of the Ugandan resistance forces. The source said that it is no secret that the security situation in Ugandan is no longer good.

The Ugandan vice president yesterday denied there was an attack on Magamaga. In his statement, he asserted that a state of maximum readiness was announced last Saturday in the infantry school after it was reported that three men, suspected of being guerrillas were in (Wayaraka) academy near Jinja and were shooting in the air. Forces in the area were sent to search for them.

The sitaution is still unclear in Jinja and official reports are conflicting. It is also difficult to reach the city of Jinja due to the strict security measures adopted in the area.

Obote Says 'No Guerrilla Attack'

EA250855 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1725 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Press conference by President Milton Obote at the International Conference Center in Kampala on 24 June 85 on the alleged attacks by bandits on Magamaga Army Barracks and the Amnesty International report for 1985 on Uganda — recorded]

[Text][David Anyotti, minister of information and broadcasting] Mr President, sir, may I on behalf of the journalists here welcome you to this press conference. We have here members of the Uganda press and representatives of the foreign press and a number of press attaches of various missions here in Kampala. Mr President, I wish to take this opportunity to call upon you to address this press conference.

[Obote] Members of the press: In a previous press conference, I appealed to Uganda journalists to be enterprising and to inform themselves of events in the country. I recently made an exhaustive tour of Kumi and Soroti Districts. No journalist, except from *MKOMBOZI [LIBERATOR]* ,the people, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, covered that tour. At the end of May and beginning of June this year, I also made an extensive tour of Mbarara, Kabale, and Rukungiri Districts. Except for the Youth Day, 3 June, only journalists from, again, *MKOMBOZI*, the people, and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting covered that tour. I do not say this in order to urge you to accompany me on tours so that your report will make propaganda for the government, my party, and myself. I have noticed that even in Kampala certain events happen and you are not enterprising enough to approach ministers or officials either for background information or for verifying the facts. When that happens in Kampala, where you live and work, your reports on events in Uganda, and particularly events outside Kampala, cannot represent and cannot reflect the factual situation in the country. A case in point is when a grenade was thrown at the minister of internal affairs in May: Some papers in Uganda reported that a number of persons were shot in that incident, when in fact nobody was shot.

Let me turn now to Jinja and Magamaga: Foreign media began to report yesterday evening that the Magamaga military depot had been attacked by what the media described as guerrillas, that there was fighting lasting for more than 2 hours at Magamaga and that there was shooting in Jinja Municipality. The reports went on to say that the police in Jinja urged the people to close their shops and that traffic in Jinja was stopped for hours. Is it possible? As some members of the Uganda press, they have been contacted on this story by foreign journalists, who are outside Uganda. Jinja is not far from Kampala. It is only 50 miles away. To the best of my knowledge, none of you have approached the Ministries of Defense, Internal Affairs, or Information and Broadcasting, or the Office of the Inspector General of Police to check on the authenticity of this story.

I want to tell you authoritatively that there was no so-called guerrilla attack at Magamaga yesterday. There was no fighting. [Passage indistinct] You are free to question them either during or after this press conference. Better still you should go today.

I move to another point: The report of Amnesty International of June 1985: The Government received this report this weekend. It was released by Amnesty International on Wednesday, 19 June 1985, on the eve of the presentation of our budget.

I take (?this) opportunity to inform the press once more that I, on behalf of government, gave a pledge in a letter dated 21 January 1982 to the secretary general of Amnesty International that the government would cooperate with that organization on the matter of human rights. Amnesty International knows that Uganda is one of the few countries in the world — one of the few governments in the world — which have allowed a delegation from their headquarters to visit this country and hold discussions on matters of common concern, mainly respect for human rights. The pledge I gave has not been withdrawn and shall not be withdrawn.

In the context of the recent report issued last Wednesday, I have instructed our high commissioner in London to contact Amnesty International and to give the organization the assurances of my

government that with their cooperation the government is more than prepared to carry out through investigations for the various cases contained in their report. In that context the government is prepared to receive another delegation from Amnesty International. I would say that if the government had been contacted before the publication of the report, it is most likely that some of cases in the report could have been, on explanation from the government, either omitted or probably not presented in the way they now appear in the report.

I would not want to go into detail, for I still hope that the organization will send a delegation from their London headquarters to discuss with the government the entire report. I want, however, to repeat most sincerely what I recently told Parliament: Let no one, either here or abroad, continue to entertain the false belief that this government is not interested in the rule of law, human rights, the unity of the people of Uganda, or the promotion of democracy and democratic institutions.

Members of the Uganda press have a responsibility to the people of Uganda and to their profession to publish facts, not imaginations [as heard]. I say this because there appears to be a belief abroad that in Uganda members of the security forces, Army, police, National Security Agency are free to commit crimes and are never taken to court. This, as you well know, is far from the truth. Members of security forces accused of commiting crimes have been appearing in court and you know it. In some of the incidences cited in the report of Amnesty International there are in fact members of the security forces who have been arrested and will, I am sure, in due course appear in court.

Discipline in the Army, for instance, has been improving year after year as officers and NCO's receive the necessary training, either here or abroad. Last year, the government removed from the statute book the power of arrest by members of the Armed Forces. Very strict instructions have been given to the Army that except in areas of operation, no member of the Army should arrest civilians. Even in the operational areas, the Army is under orders to arrest and question suspects and to surrender such persons to the police with the least delay and not to detain them — the suspects — in military barracks.

Members of the press, maybe some of you listen to foreign radio stations. One such radio station in Western Europe on the morning ot the 20th of this month even went so low, went so low, as to ask Moses Ali [minister of provincial administration under Idi Amin] of all people — one of the greatest killers during Amin's time — to comment on the matter of human rights in Uganda. I make this point in order to urge you and appeal to the foreign media, appeal to organizations such as Amnesty International, and indeed appeal to all countries in the world, particularly Western countries, not to be too ready, not to be too ready to judge and condemn this government on reports they receive from whatever source without the government being given a chance to comment on any such reports.

Members of the press: This government is fully committed, is fully committed to the observance of human rights in all parts of Uganda. Members of this government led the struggle against the regime of Idi Amin and it is most painful and disheartening for this government to be equated either here or abro: ' with the atrocious regime of Idi Amin. To do so cannot be sup,. ted by the fact of the situation. To do so borders on a deliberate campaign, a deliberate political campaign to undermine the image and the authority of the government. Even in the report of Amnesty International, it is acknowledged, though indirectly, that peace and observance of human rights have returned to the whole country, except in areas where we have had armed dissident activities.

In conclusion, members of the press, let me say this: Members of this government cannot negate the very objectives of the enjoyment of human rights by all Ugandans, for which they fought and for which many of their colleagues lost their lives, by resorting to and condoning massive violations of human rights in Uganda. I thank you for listening to me. I will entertain a few questions on the subject matter I have discussed.

[Unidentified speaker] Will you please, when asking questions, identify the organization for which you work and give us your name.

[Majer] I am Ojok Majer from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Your excellency, sir, I would like to ask you a question: [Words indistinct] is there really in our country, no countermeasure against [word indistinct] propaganda against Uganda. I really do not know, are we just keeping quiet, or are we just — I do not know, your excellency, really.

[Obote] I do not want to expand on the remarks I have given to you, but I want to say this: There was a terrible regime in Uganda in the 1970's. But all standards, the people of Uganda, and the rest of the world condemned that regime.

However, in some parts of the world, particularly in the Western countries, the more the regime existed, the more it became easy to explain away the atrocities in South Africa. It became very easy to say: Why condemn South Africa when Amin is doing greater havoc to black people in Uganda? This very last week that same point was put by a British journal to a British minister. The minister was asked: Why do you want to condemn South Africa for 19 people being killed and you do not want to condemn Uganda for this massive violation of human rights? It is the same journalists, particularly journalists from the Western world, they do not want to recognize that there has been a change in Uganda. They live in Nairobi under a tropical sun, they are paid good money in foreign currency, they live well, and to them there has been no change in Uganda. You go to various parts of Uganda, you can dance the whole night without any problem of insecurity, but they say that is not true, there is no security in Uganda. So we are fighting a group of people, a group of organizations, but their interest is not the interest of the black man. They do not want South Africa — the black man in South Africa — to be free. So it comes out: Uganda, Uganda, Uganda, because of the record set by Idi Amin. The transformation that this government has been carrying out is not appreciated by them, because if that was appreciated by them their bread is gone, not only in Nairobi but also in South Africa. And I want to tell you whatever they do, whatever they do, we shall succeed.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CAR-Chad Joint Commission Session Opens

AB251337 Bangui Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] The eighth session of the CAR-Chad Joint Commission began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation yesterday under the chairmanship of Second Lieutenant Clement Michel Nga Gnii-Voueto, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

In their opening addresses, Foreign Minister Nga Gnii-Voueto and Ahmed Korom, Chadian secretary of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation, underscored the critical economic situation in Africa which has been exacerbated by increased desert encroachment.

GABON

President Bongo Leaves for Tour of Provinces

AB251642 Paris AFP in French 1901 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Libreville, 24 Jun (AFP) — On Monday morning, the Gabonese president, Mr Omar Bongo, left Libreville for Ngounie Province, (in southern part of the country). This visit falls within the framework of a tour of the country he started last week when he visited the Ogoue maritime and the Nyanga Provinces (in central west and southwest of the country).

During a stop in Tchibanga (capital of Nyanga Province), President Bongo announced the upcoming completion of a radio relay system which should enable the whole province to receive television transmissions from Libreville and to be linked to an automatic telephone system.

In Mabanda (on border with the Congo) where he went next, President Bongo recalled the "strategic importance" of that locality and urged the inhabitants of that zone to remain vigilant. He also invited them to speak out against "all those who would be tempted to jeopardize the good relations which exist between Gabon and the Congo."

In Ngounie Province, the head of state will successively visit Mouila, Ndende, Mbigou, and Lebamba.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Warns Neighbors After Border Attack

AB250758 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the Zairian head of state, today in Kinshasa issued a strong warning to Zaire's neighbors after the new rebel attack launched on 17 June against the town of Moba on the border with Tanzania. Tanzania and Burundi have been accused on several occasions by the Zairian authorities of sheltering rebels operating in the far east of the country.

At a rally in Kinshasa attended by several thousand people, the Zairian head of state warned that his country also has the means to destabilize other countries. The president also talked about economic difficulties facing the country in his speech and called on the people to be patient. He criticized Zairian intellectuals who assert that the country has sold out its sovereignty to the IMF. He recalled recent salary increases in the lowest grades in the civil service and in the Army.

Furthermore, President Mobutu assured his former prime minister, Nguza Karl-I-Bond, who has expressed the desire for reconciliation with the Kinshasa regime, that he will be welcome. Talking about Nguza Karl-I-Bond's return to Kinshasa scheduled for next Thursday, the Zairian head of state said, I quote: Former Prime Minister Nguza Karl-I-Bond insulted me. He has written a book against me. If he wants to return home, there is no problem. The doors of Zaire are open to him as they are open to all the sons and daughters of this country, unquote.

Nguza Karl-I-Bond, who became the chief opponent of Mobutu's regime, has indicated that he will return to Kinshasa on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Zaire's independence, after 4 years of self-imposed exile in Belgium.

Views Role of Libya

AB251714 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0915 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 24 Jun (AZAP) — The traditional dialogue between Mobutu and the people was respected once again at Kinkole where the MPR founder held a fruitful and instructive exchange of views lasting about 2 hours with 1 million inhabitants of Kinshasa assembled today in this famous fishing town on the occasion of "fisherman's day."

"Fisherman's day" was established 18 years ago to mark the importance of fishing and farming activities in the life of the nation. With the advent of the second republic, it is the symbol of the rehabilitation of work in all its aspects and it is also a mark of praise to those of our citizens who devote themselves painstakingly to that sector of productive activities in view of the fact that most Zairians feed regularly on fish.

This is why Marshal Mobutu began his mass rally yesterday with a resounding tribute to all Zairian fishermen, exhorting all Zairian workers to work hard in order to lift the country from the economic crisis imposed on it by the disruption in the world environment.

The rally was also an implicit tribute to them for all that they have been doing with militantism toward national recovery within the framework of the struggle against underdevelopment and for the building of a prosperous and respected country in the heart of Africa. Encouraging and palpable results have been achieved in this connection. Each Zairian is already enjoying the gorgeous fruits of the achievements — forerunners of happiness. The tree bearing these fruits can only grow thanks to the peace and tranquility established by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, assets without which nothing positive can be undertaken or achieved.

This issue of security for 30 million Zairians and all those who have chosen Zaire as their second fatherland constituted the texture of President Mobutu's address at Kinkole today. "It is my primary concern," the head of state said. Since 24 November 1965, Zaire has ensured that its domestic and external security should not be disrupted. Its leader has been working relentlessly to provide the country with the means for its defense and endeavoring to maintain relations of goodneighborliness with the countries surrounding it in the interest of all.

Unfortunately, some people do not see things the same way. This is why Zaire has decided to respond to any attack prepared on the territories of neighboring countries. "Henceforth, the right of hot pursuit will be exercised against any neighboring country condoning acts of sabotage and subversion against the Zairian people," Marshal Mobutu stated.

This is the rationale behind the creation of the Military Intelligence and Action Agency which the president established last Saturday. The agency will comprise special units trained to carry out that mission. "I am fed up. We will also destabilize those who are trying to destabilize Zaire. Goodneighborliness is not synonymous to weakness. We have sufficient means to take action against potential destabilizers," the leader stated to the great pleasure of the million MPR militants in Kinshasa who enthusiastically hailed this resoluteness as though they were expressing the approval of all the Zairian people who have made a point of safeguarding their achievements.

Retaliatory Measures

In this connection, Marshal Mobutu specified that a neighboring country harboring the terrorists who had just attacked Moba for the second time on 17 June 1985 was paid due ransom during the annihilation of the invaders. Those who escaped were pursued to their original base. To annihilate the enemies, the Zairian Air Force did not grant them sanction. It is a significant warning, said President Mobutu who pointed out that 10 out of 14 enemy boats were sunk with their fugitives on Lake Tanganyika.

The warning also holds for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who took the liberty of coming to Zaire's borders with Bujumbura and Kigali to set the Zairian people at defiance through abusive and threatening words, which was the manifestation of a completely confused mind. "Col al-Qadhdhfai is the world's greatest terrorist, who prefers to devote his billions of petrodollars to funding destabilizing actions all over the world instead of using them toward the development of his country. The terrorist-styled speech which he delivered in the Rwandan and Burundian capitals underlies the behavior of a neoslave-trader to whom Zaire says no," the head of state said, adding that if the Libyan president believes he can have Mobutu assassinated, nobody knows whether this fatal end will not be in store for Al-Qadhdhafi himself?

Zaire, Marshal Mobutu continued, "is free to maintain relations with any country it chooses. It has restored relations with Israel for reasons it does not have to explain to anybody." "We are a sovereign country and act independently." If he has blacks under his wing, he has to understand that "Zaire's blacks constitute a different category," he emphasized before continuing: "We do not have the same financial means but we have our dignity and we are very jealous of our independence. Zaire will never be a locomotive of the Libyan train." "We have restored relations with Israel for reasons that are peculiar to us."

The Zairian leader did not fail to announce in this context to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who has gruesome intentions toward him, that he will "once again go to Israel before the end of this year." It was in this state of mind that Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko informed his people of the lessons he drew from the upsetting statements and confessions of the Zairian terrorists trained in Libya and recently presented on television. Marshal Mobutu was obviously very sorry to see young Zairians accept collective suicide missions from the enemies of the revolution.

How can we explain that our youth can accept to serve foreign powers in order to destroy their country's economy, to spread death and grief? where is the sense of good citizenship, nationalism, and patriotism, the head of state wondered. The conclusion that he draws from this fact is that everything is to be reviewed as far the counselling and education of the youths are concerned. "We have not yet succeeded in the political training within the youth of the Popular Movement of the Revolution."

Finally, the Zairian leader told those who plan to make an attempt on the security of the Zairian people that he devotes every moment of his life to seeing to the security of the party's militants as well as to the security of all Zairian inhabitants. If in 1967, it took us 5 months to defeat the mercenaries — the second republic was only 2 years old at that time —, it took us 80 days for Shaba I, 6 days for Shaba II, 3 days for Moba I, and 5 hours for Moba II, this is because Zaire has progressively acquired powerful means for counterattack.

Morally speaking, the Zairian people have acquired psychological and material means necessary to see to their tranquility and return blow for blow.

Concerning the portion of the head of state's address devoted to the social problems and which constituted the main part of the head of state's dialogue with the party militants gathered at Kinkole, Marshal Mobutu first of all made a clarification about the theme of his 5 December 1984 inaugural speech by recalling that the program that he drew up on that occasion covered the entire 7-year term, from 1985 to 1991 inclusive. It is not, therefore, 1985 which will be devoted to the social problems of the Zairian masses but rather the entire duration of his third mandate.

Having thus put an end to some rumors, the head of state explained the reasons that led him to grant a substantial salary increase of 159 percent to civil servants who are in the low-income group.

Everything stemmed from an anonymous letter signed "The Militant" which explained with figures that when all the categories of workers are given the same rate of pay increase, it does not do social justice, for finally only the upper categories remain favored because of their already high salaries. This mathematical aspect of the problem should therefore be taken into account to do genuine social justice.

On the same topic of social preoccupations, the head of state exhorted traders to comply with existing laws in fixing prices of goods and services, for this is also part of good citizenship. He called on the people to increase production because abundance of goods has some repercussion on the prices of consummer goods. Thus after consultations with the first state commissioner, and to respond to the people's worries, he ordered that the cost of bus tickets should be brought down from 7 zaires to 5 beginning 1 July, and added that recalcitrant transport owners should be reported to the mayor's office.

On the question of those who are pompously referred to abroad as "opponents," the founding chairman of the party said that the MPR is a rally for all the Zairian people, and therefore, all the sons and daughters of this country are members. Even those who, for the moment, feel they are outside it and think they can find their welfare elsewhere are part of it. The doors of Zaire remain open to such people and they can return freely to their fatherland and go about their duties in all tranquility like many others before them have done. This also applies to all, including Nguza Karl-I-Bond and his friends. The father who knows how to punish also knows how to pardon. That is the rationale behind the recent decree of the Department of Territorial Administration lifting the administrative measure imposed on seven former parliamentarians.

To those militants who thought this magnamity to be too generous, the head of state said while he understood their reaction, they should put themselves in his place and see him as father and mother of a family. "My position is not easy," he said. Finally, the president of the republic exhorted all party militants to give an authentically Zairian welcome to the Belgian sovereigns who will join the Zairian people next Saturday to celebrate the silver jubilee of Zaire's independence, and to the sovereign pontiff who is expected in Zaire in August.

Gabonese Minister Arrives With Bongo Message

AB251748 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1654 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 Jun (AZAP) — Martin Bongo, Gabonese minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Kinshasa on Tuesday bearing a personal message from President Omar Bongo to Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic. He was met on arrival in the capital by Gabon's ambassador to Zaire, Joseph Koumba Moungouengui, and Elofa Lokwa, head of state protocol at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Commissioner Discusses Atomic Energy Research

AB211703 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0930 GMT 21 Jun 85

["Exclusive" AZAP interview with Professor Malu wa Kalenga, general commissioner for atomic energy research, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Zairian General Commission for Atomic Energy — date and place of interview not given]

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 21 Jun (AZAP) — [AZAP] Professor, Zaire will commemorate in a few days the 25th anniversary of its nuclear research. What lessons can be drawn from it?

[Malu] The lessons that can be drawn from it are many. The most important is that we should not be afraid of being ambitious in scientific and technical matters. In fact, despite the hazards due to the troubled period of 1960-65 and the economic crisis after 1973, the citizens of this country have shown that it is possible to master an advanced technology and to improve significantly the intricate working tool which an atomic reactor is.

[AZAP] Are you satisfied with the achievements made so far, citizen general commissioner?

[Malu] Certainly. This does not mean that we could not have done more and better. But in this field it is always necessary to make a "cost-benefit" analysis: what has been put into it and what we derive from it. The uncertain nature of research must also be taken into account. If one knew what was to be found, it would not be necessary to do research.

[AZAP] Nuclear research in Zaire is tied to the existence of the General Commission for Atomic Energy which later become the Regional Nuclear Energy Centre, (CREN-K). Public opinion is not well-informed about the existence of this center and its achievements. What is the actual situation?

[Malu] For example, we have built a new atomic reactor which is performing better than that which CREN-K inherited at the beginning. Note that I have said built and not ordered and had built. [Sentence as received] We have trained and put to work about 50 specialists of whom nearly 15 have a doctorate in highly specialized disciplines relating to peaceful applications of atomic energy. We have organized monograph-writing sessions for dozens of students from Zairian universities. We have organized several regional science courses for African research workers. And finally, the personnel of CREN-K and the associate research workers make use of nearly 350 publications and technical notes in the most diverse sectors connected with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

[AZAP] Your center is of course interested in development problems. In this regard, citizen general commissioner, what are the most remarkable results obtained in the field of Zaire's development, or for example in the fields of health and the well-being of the people?

[Malu] The answer depends on personal appreciation. As a scientist, any research crowned with success is an achievement in the framework of the development of a country because development does not have only a material significance. You have rightly stated this by using the word "well-being" which transcends material or quantifiable acquisitions. But of course to the average reader, material, or in any case quantifiable, acquisitions have a better appeal. Using these terms of reference, we can say:

A. In the field of agronomy, the development of new varieties of seed through radio-induced mutation. Concretely, we have developed and handed over two varieties of mutant groundnuts to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for multiplication and distribution. The center has also developed several new varieties of maize and a new variety of soja — which have not yet been distributed due to inadequate means of multiplication and some incidents like thefts in the farm — as well as two

new varieties of rice which are under experiment at the National Institute of Agronomic Studies and Research (INERA).

B. As far as soil sciences is concerned, we have demonstrated the usefulness of phosphates in Bas-Zaire where they are used in bulk as fertilizer. In addition, a functional soil-analysis laboratory is working to the great satisfaction of various clients: agriculturists, the FAO. Concerning the program for valorization of Zairian leguminous plants, a systematic study of legumes and leguminous plants has been in progress for several years to define their food value and the conditions under which they can be introduced into the eating habits of the people. Besides, the study of the water hyacinth has revealed that this plant presents interesting prospects for livestock feeding.

C. We are producing routinely isotopes and molecules marked in Technicium-99 M which are used in several fields, especially nuclear medicine. Added to this area are the radioimmunological kits.

D. In the medical field, radioactive tracer techniques are routinely used for diagnostic purposes for diseases as varied as goiter and cancer. Year in, year out, over 2,000 patients are treated by using scintigraphic exploration in the university clinics.

E. Finally, though without having been exhaustive, we may call attention to radiation control activities. It is an important activity since each hospital, for instance, has an x-ray machine. This type of equipment, emitters of rays, must be checked to ensure that they are used according to acceptable norms for the safety of the public and of nurses. These are some results which interest the general public. There are many others whose practical usefulness is less evident. Such is the case regarding the construction of a pulse research reactor which to date, is the most powerful in Africa.

[AZAP] Before finishing, professor, could you outline the prospects for the development of the activities of CREN-K in view of the results achieved so far?

[Malu] The prospects for development are many, particularly in agriculture, medicine, biology, and chemisty. It will take too long to detail them here. They are detailed in the 5-year plan of the atomic energy general commissioner. Besides, to be realistic, these prospects must be adapted to the material and human resources that can be mobilized for research and development in the nuclear field. Let us say that the main priority is to bring to a successful conclusion the construction program of a big unit for the production of radioelements and a major laboratory for the handling of hot substances which has been going on for almost 10 years now. This program is being developed particularly slowly, due to current financial constraints.

[AZAP] So, the final word, professor?

[Malu] I wish to end by expressing my greatest appreciation for the untiring efforts made by the Executive Council, and singularly by the guide of the Zairian revolution, to maintain the position of Zaire in this field which is not only prestigious, but particularly useful in the socioeconomic development of the republic.

Zaire-Belgium Joint Commission Opens Session

AB252142 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1652 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 Jun (AZAP) — Deliberations of the 10th session of the Zaire-Belgium Joint Commission opened on Tuesday in Green Hall at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the presence of Citizen Lengema Dulia, secretary of state for international cooperation, and Francois Xavier de Donnea, Belgian secretary of state for cooperation.

In his opening address, Citizen Lengema Dulia talked about issues related to various activities undertaken by Belgium in various fields such as education, medical, and agricultural sectors, basic infrastructure, administration, and to a lesser extent banking. It is a multiform and multidimensional cooperation which is almost all-embracing since it covers several fields, he pointed out.

The secretary of state for international cooperation emphasized that Belgium's public aid for development in Zaire constituted from 1982 to 1983 at least 32 percent of Belgium's bilateral aid to developing countries, adding that Zaire therefore records with satisfaction the restructuring process which is gradually restoring agriculture to the place it deserves. He indicated that the government's investments in this vital sector in 1984 increased from 4.5 percent to 20 percent, and this upward trend will not stop there.

On his part, Mr de Donnea hoped experts of the two sides would concentrate their efforts in finding solutions to pending problems and noted with satisfaction the constructive spirit that reigns between Zaire and Belgium in their political and economic relations. In the field of cooperation between the two countries, Mr de Donnea stressed that such cooperation has yielded the expected results especially in the transportation and communication sectors, the RVA and RVM [expansions unknown], agriculture and other sectors. Mr de Donnea added that concerning projects already implemented, 20 percent of the expenses will be taken over in 1986 and at the same time emphasis will be laid mn technical and professional training by awarding scholarship to Zairian students. He stated that Belgium's contribution to Zaire's economic development was 110 million Belgian francs in 1983 and 150 million Belgian francs in 1984. From 1983 to 1985, 4 billion Belgian francs a year had been devoted to priority projects, he said.

Still within the framework of Zaire-Belgium cooperation, the two countries on 8 April 1985 signed eight special arrangements under which the Belgian Government placed 352,900 million Belgian francs at the disposal of the Executive Council to carry out some projects. These special arrangements concern extension works on the Mbanza-Ngungu stock-breeding project with extensions to Maymbe in Bas-Zaire, Kwango in the region of Bandundu and Kinshasa; the development of the fish-breeding project in Bosondjo; the astrological project and aid to stock breeders in Bas-Zaire and Bandundu; the development of small-scale stock breeders in Idiofa (Bandundu), a technical assistant project at the agricultural production and mechanization center in Bili as well as the development of a seed multiplication center in Kisamba. This is an eloquent evidence of the importance of the cooperation between Zaire and Belgium.

Experts of the two countries will also identify additional projects especially in the field of fish-breeding and soil studies at the Kinshasa meeting. In the field of medical cooperation, a health center will be built in the Masina area with the financial help of the Belgian Government. The unveiling of the plaque will be performed by King Baudouin I on 30 June 1985.

Luc Putman, Belgian ambassador to Zaire, Citizen Ekila Liyonda, Zaire's ambassador to Belgium, and Ambassador Kalonji Tshikala, director of the European section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, were also present at the opening session.

GAMBIA

Police Arrest 3 Involved in Plotting Coup

AB251742 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Banjul, June 25 (AFP) — A Gambian recently arrested on murder charges here was also involved in plotting to overthrow the government of President Sir Dawda Jawara, the *GAMBIA ONWARD* newspaper said here today, adding that two policewomen had been arrested for complicity in the plot. The newspaper named the alleged plotter as Lamine Dabo, who it said was found to be in possession of a large sum of money when he was arrested. The arrest was connected with the murder on April 2 of a Mauritanian tradesman, it added.

The newspaper said the money had been intended to finance a coup in The Gambia, and that one of the arrested women had been in possession of letters for Mr Dabo. The letters warned him to stay out of the country as the Gambian police were looking for him, it said.

There was no immediate reaction to the report from officials here.

In July 1981 The Gambia, a small former British colony surrounded on three sides by Senegalese territory, was shaken by an abortive coup which left between 500 and 800 people dead. That led to the deployment of Senegalese troops in the country, and the setting-up of a Senegambian federation between the two neighbours the following year.

GHANA

Defense Council Member Reviews GDR Talks

AB251005 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 jun 85

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mrs Aanaa Enin, has returned home after a 2-week visit to the German Democratic Republic. The visit was at the invitation of the GDR International Friendship League. She told newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport that her discussions with members of the GDR Politburo were very fruitful. They centered mainly on cultural and educational exchanges, and the possibility of establishing contacts between the National Youth Organizing Commission [NYOC] and three German youth movements.

Mrs Enin disclosed that officials of the Arts Council and NYOC will soon go to the GDR to finalize arrangements on ideas in which GDR experts can help in the training of Ghanaians in arts, culture, and education. The PNDC members said she also made an appeal to the GDR authorities to increase the number of scholarships offered to Ghanaian students to study in that country.

According to Mrs Enin, most of the students expressed their appreciation at the government efforts at nation-building. This was after she had explained to them some aspects of economic measures being taken by the PNDC to rebuild the nation.

Finance Official Returns From EEC Meeting

AB251103 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, has returned home from the ACP ministerial meeting in Brussels and the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers meeting in Luxembourg. He disclosed that at the Luxembourg meeting the Lome III Convention was finally signed. Dr Botchway said the main concern of the ACP group at the talks was the prospect of uniform legislation within the EEC that permits increase in the use of vegetable fat in chocolate and other cocoa confectioneries. He said the ACP group drew the attention of the EEC to the dangers posed by a proposal which is before the European Parliament that allows for 5 percent of vegetable fat in chocholate and other cocoa confectioneries.

According to Dr Botchway, the ACP group agreed to resist an increase in the level of percentage of vegetable fat to be used in chocolate and other cocoa confectioneries. He explained that the vegetable fat would reduce the demand for cocoa produced by ACP countries. Dr Botchway said if another proposal made by the EEC group on the acceptability level of (?oxide) toxin contained in groundnut, a commodity exported by ACP countries, is not checked, it will act as a nontariff barrier to trade between the two groups. He said the EEC has agreed to suspend further talks and enjoin a join technical group to study the issue.

The secretary said he also discussed the programming of facilities and resources available to Ghana under the Lome III Convention. Dr Botchway announced that the next ACP ministerial meeting will take place in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Debt of 50 Million Pounds Cancelled by Britain

AB211210 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The visiting director of the West and East Africa Division of the Overseas Development Administration, Dr Denny Osborne, has held talks in Accra with a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice Daniel Annan. Speaking to newsmen after the discussions, Dr Osborne explained that he would spend 1 week in Ghana to assess how the country's economy is responding to British aid. He expressed satisfaction with the government's economic policy. British aid to Ghana for the current year is 11 million pounds sterling and is earmarked for the forestry and timber sectors as well as to support the teaching hospitals and the training of management personnel. Dr Osborne said his discussions with Mr Justice Annan had informed him adequately about the economic recovery program. The PNDC member was impressed that Britain has cancelled a 50-million pound sterling debt owed her by Ghana and which should have been paid over a 20-year period. He hoped other donor countries will emulate the British example.

Team To Attend 12th Moscow Youth Festival

AB250955 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Ghana is to be represented at the 12th youth festival in Moscow by an 18-member team. This was disclosed by the chairman of the National Youth Organizing Commission, Mr Muldry Alias, at a news conference in Accra. He said the team would be made up of various groups.

A member of the permanent commission of the international preparatory committee for the festival, Mr Louis Kaltovo, who is leading a two-man delegation to Ghana to acquaint himself with the preparations made so far, said the festival will foster economic cooperation among participating countries. It will also enable the youth to exchange ideas and views on issues of common concern. The other member of the delegation, Mr Komali Yelse, said the festival will afford all people who stand for peace and freedom an opportunity to discuss common problems for their development. The festival, which will begin on 27 of next month and end on 3 August, has as its theme: for anti-imperialists, solidarity, peace, and friendship. About 150 countries will take part in the celebration.

GUINEA

Agriculture Official Receives Soviet Secretary

AB251622 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Mr Kamalov, vice minister of land reclamation and water resources of Uzbekistan, was received in audience this Tuesday morning by Major Abraham Kabassan Keita, secretary of state for agriculture and animal husbandry. Their discussion centered on a memorandum submitted by the coordinator of Soviet-financed projects, Mr Oumar Sow. The 10-point memorandum contains a progress report and a work schedule for 1985-1986. On the occasion, the Uzbekistan vice minister, Mr Kamalov, pointed out that some problems have arisen and that they must be solved [words indistinct]. Maj Abraham Kabassan Keita added that the technical problems must be solved by the technicians to enable the draft projects to make a fresh start. To this end, a meeting between Soviet and Guinean technicicans opened immediately [words indistinct] to ensure that objectives of these projects are attained within the specified periods.

IVORY COAST

Minister on Problems Caused by Influx of Aliens

AB251255 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
25 Jun 85 pp 4,5

[Interview with Youth and Sports Minister Laurent Dona Fologo following his address to the National Press Club in Abidjan on 22 June]

[Exerpts] [Nicolas Nzi, chairman of the Grand-Bassam Literary Club] Mr minister, can one say that the Ivorian is a nationalist, that is a citizen virtually attached to the national values? This question is justified especially because those who are in charge of the state's political apparatus are every day involved in financial scandals, embezzlement of public funds ....

[Fologo] I affirm that the Ivorian is a nationalist. When talking about nationalism, one must be very prudent because it is a force that is sometimes so powerful that people are carried away by it. We are nationalists; this means that we love our country. I am convinced that we are ready to do what is required of us so that our country may continue to be great. You have mentioned a problem which is not necessarily connected with nationalism: The problem of financial scandals and bad management. I think that one can be a bad manager in any country, regardless of the degree of nationalism. There are certainly some people who think that they very much love Ivory Coast and that they are ready to shed their blood for it but who have been involved in these scandals. The question of financial scandals is therefore another matter.

[A student, Pascal Kouassi, asks about oil revenues, the criteria for the awards of scholarships, the participation by the villagers in the maintenance of wells, and pompous funerals and marriages]

[Fologo] The problem of pompous marriages and funerals has been discussed at great length. A special party commission is in charge of it. There exist within Ivorian society certain things which will change progressively.

At present, the contribution of oil to our budget is very limited. Oil exploration demands huge financial investment involving hundreds of billions of francs. When oil is found, it is necessary that the investors should first pay themselves. You will understand that if we were to spend the 400 billion francs needed for oil exploration and at the same time develop our country, there would never have been any oil exploration. This is why the oil revenues are now being used to make part payments to the oil companies and to finance part of the national budget. But the portion devoted to the budget is quite small. We are still waiting for more oil. As the president has said, Ivory Coast's oil will be the oil of peace and development.

Concerning scholarships, they will no longer be awarded to all Ivorians going to university. We must make this point clear! We think that there are some people who cannot be awarded a scholarship even if they are the best. The system of scholarships for all will no longer be continued. The government is firm on this point. What we want to achieve in this matter is justice. This means that we want to know the real revenues of parents and the intrinsic value of the students. The commissions will make their decisions on the basis of this data. This is the new policy regarding scholarships.

[Mohamed Elbou of the Voice of America] Mr minister, we remember the expulsions of immigrants in certain countries as well as the celebrations of Refugee Day in Africa. As for Ivory Coast, it has been welcoming numerous aliens with open arms. Are you not afraid that we have reached the point where this should no longer be tolerated? What measures does the government finally intend to take to face all contingencies?

[Fologo] The massive arrival of people from the neighboring countries or farther away is indeed a problem. The president of the party and the party pray God to give us the strength and the means to receive all of them. This is our wish. The problem was less noticeable during our period of abundance. And then the crisis arrived, accompanied by the drought and the dismissals of workers...and these have created a difficult situation for us. Of course, a new situation creates new problems. The problem of massive influx of aliens has therefore become more noticeable. But what is the point of saturation or alert? It is difficult for me to say exactly. What I can tell you is that the party and the government still wish that Ivory Coast should remain a land of refuge and welcome. This is our wish.

In actual fact, our country is not a country of refugees which asks the United Nations to create camps for them. The head of state has often said: "Help them because it is God who sends them to us." We know that this is not easy. So far, we have done the most we can. It is necessary for all of us to think about how best we can receive and help those who arrive.

LIBERIA

Government Certifies United People's Party

AB252256 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The United People's Party, UPP, has been certificated by the Special Election Commission, Secom, in a run up to general elections in the country, scheduled for October this year. The certification of UPP today follows the expiration last Friday of a 20-day deadline for challenges on the partisan list published by Secom. Presenting the certificate to the UPP chairman, Mr G. Baccus Matthews, the chairman of the Special Election Commission, Ambassador Emmet Harmon, noted that Secom is in the process of making history by which the commission will be judged. Anything done by Secom should be done first with the fear of God. Chairman Harmon assured that members of the commission feel committed and obligated to uphold the principles of fair democracy to respect the laws which have been enacted and by which Secom was set up. He informed the UPP delegation that throughout the publication of the partisan list, Secom received no challenges against the list.

Receiving the certificate, the chairman of the United People's Party, Mr G. Baccus Matthews, thanked members of the commission and said the certificate was a manifestation that UPP had conformed to all the requirements of Secom as set for certification.

NIGERIA

Cooperation Talks With PRC Begin in Lagos

AB252252 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Nigeria and China have begun talks in Lagos to explore ways of improving economic cooperation at the second session of the Nigeria-PRC Joint Commission. Areas being covered are agriculture, water resources, health, industry, trade, culture, and social development. The meeting will examine the possibility of Chinese assistance in the fields of alternative medicine and acupuncture. The technical cooperation agreement between Nigeria and China expired about 4 years ago.

At the opening session of yesterday, the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, stressed the need for participants to look into the issue of trade imbalance between the two countries. The Chinese minister of geology and mining, Mr Sun Daguang, noted that relations between Nigeria and China had improved greatly since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1971. The inaugural session of the Nigeria-PRC Joint Commission was held in Beijing, China 3 years ago.

Yesterday, members of the Chinese team paid a courtesy call on the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. Also yesterday, the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, Wang Yusheng, called on the chief of staff Supreme Headquarters during which they deliberated on bilateral issues.

Commentary Discusses Oil Marketing Policy

AB231358 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] In spite of calculated attempts by certain sections of the Western press to discredit Nigeria in the global oil market, the country has always been conscious of the thorny nature of the international politics on the commodity. This consciousness is based on the fact that oil is the pivot of the nation's economy. Prior to the inception of the present administration, Nigeria's monocultural economy was tied to the dictates of the world oil market. It is the volatile nature of the international oil market which made it practically unrealistic for Nigeria and indeed other oil-producing countries within or outside the confines of OPEC to adopt or operate a confrontational or self-centered oil marketing policy. It would be wrong to think that there has not been an oil marketing policy since 1958 when the first consignment of the commodity was lifted out of the country.

But because of the instability that existed in the world oil market, those countries have been able to adopt a permanent policy. And until the formation of the cartel known today as OPEC, it was a biased market in which the developed countries of Western Europe and America, in collusion with the oil producing companies, ripped-off the producing nations. Since they have the technology and were the end-users, they were able to dictate the price of crude oil by creating glut in the market. The arrival of OPEC on the scene put a stop to this as it created an avenue for producing countries to speak with one voice.

The opponents of Nigeria's continued stay in OPEC have not been able to point out the advantages of deserting the body. The advantages of our continued membership of OPEC are numerous apart from the stability of the international oil market. For instance, the decision of OPEC in 1983 to reduce the [word indistinct] crude and establish a production ceiling, averted the threat of an imminent glut in the market which could have had

severe consequences on our economy. (?But we) have been able to assert our influence by asking for a change in any policy which is against our national interest. The most recent example was Nigeria's insistance on a change in the difference between the bench mark for heavy crude and the (?sweet) crude. And when Norway and Britain would threaten a price cut in their (?sweet) crude on the stock market, Nigeria has no alternative but to follow suit and the organization was understanding enough accept our explanations to it.

Not so long ago, Nigeria and some member-states of OPEC were allowed concessions to lift more oil than originally allocated to them under the organization's quota system. If an organization can be flexible enough to operate a system which accomodates the diverse interests of its members, why then do we need a different policy. By staying in OPEC, on the other hand, we would have to contend with the machinations of member-nations who are major producers and at the same time, review their claims by consumer nations to lift their oil for nothing.

It is after this that we will have to monitor the goings-on in OPEC so as not to be caught off guard by a major decision of the organization. As for our international detractors who are all out to put a rift between us and OPEC, the statement by the minister of petroleum and energy, Professor Tam David-West, during a press briefing in Lagos has cleared the air on what Nigeria's oil policy is. The minister made it clear that the only marketing policy we have is that laid down by OPEC. And there is no compelling reason, according to him at the moment for us to deviate from these guidelines.

Prof David-West stated unequivocally that Nigeria does not engage in any system that the organization [word indistinct]. Our arrangement with Brazil, he explained further, was a special one which under no circumstances could be described as contrary to OPEC's policy. The main concern of the federal government since coming to power has been to ensure that Nigeria derives maximum revenue from the crude lifted from our shores.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Message Marks Mozambique Anniversary

MB251631 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Samora Machel, president of Mozambique, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Mozambique's independence — date not given]

[Text] The 25th of June is a day of great celebrations for the Mozambique people. On this day, the Frelimo Party celebrates its 23d anniversary and the People's Republic of Mozambique its 10th anniversary. Ten years of struggles and victories have passed, which were a continuation of the long years of the glorious national liberation struggle. During this period, imperialism mobilized and recruited agents and allies and increased significantly its aggression, which put to test the determination and the resistance of the Mozambique people and of their revolutionary vanguard, the Frelimo Party.

Despite many sacrifices, the people's gains were safeguarded, and the revolution is continuing to try to achieve the objectives outlined during the proclamation of independence and in constitutional law. The party rules the state and society, according to the socialist policy of the people. The imperialist maneuvers were neutralized, and the People's Republic of Mozambique has achieved progress in several sectors of the economy.

On this historic day, the Angolan people in general and the MPLA-Labor Party members in particular share the great happiness of the Mozambique people and of the members of the Frelimo Party. We express our best wishes in the the defense of the threatened motherland and in the building of the new society. We also express our sympathy with the dynamic way the Mozambique Government has searched for solutions for a just and permanent peace in southern Africa. The sovereign states are being systematically threatened by the military, economic, and social destabilization policy waged by the South African regime.

I hope you, esteemed Comrade Samora Machel, will accept on this occasion our warmest greetings sent in the name of the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party, the government and in my name, to the brotherly people of Mozambique, to the members of the Frelimo Party and to the Mozambique Government. I reiterate once again my desire to strengthen even more the traditional links of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation that exist between our peoples, parties, and governments. At the same time, I wish you good health. With fraternal consideration.

[Signed] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

BOTSWANA

Gaborone 'Categorically' Rejects RSA Account of Raid

MB251546 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The Botswana Government has categorically rejected the latest allegations from the South African authorities on their account of the raid in Gaborone. The government's rejection follows claims by South Africa that their raiders had seized documents and items of military equipment. A statement from the office of the president called the South African claims just another transparent attempt to justify to the world the raid on Gaborone.

The statement says it is amazing that it has taken the South African authorities almost a week to display such equipment, when immediately after the raid they displayed only one AK-47 rifle. Regarding claims that most of those killed were active members of the ANC guerrilla networks, the statement says again there is only the word of South Africa to go by.

The statement says even if the persons concerned were indeed involved in the alleged activities, why did the South African authorities not allow the Botswana Government to(?investigate) these activities. The statement, however, admits that the South African raiders seized a computer from the offices of the SOLIDARITY NEWS SERVICE. They also seized an SAGEM teleprinter TH20 belonging to the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation and rented to the news service.

Masire Meets With Cape Verde's President

MB251254 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, this morning met the president of Cape Verde, Mr Aristides Pereira, in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, where the two leaders are among others attending the 10th aniversary of Mozambican independence.

During the meeting, Dr Masire has accepted a message of condolences from Mr Pereira following the June 14 South African raid into Botswana, which left 12 people dead, 6 others injured, and a lot of property destroyed. During the 20 minute meeting, Dr Masire briefed Mr Pereira about the South African raid and the subsequent unanimous resolution adopted by the UN Security Council in support of Botswana. The Cape Verde leader and Dr Masire pledged to enhance mutual cooperation between their countries and to support each other at international forums such as the United Nations and the OAU.

Dr Masire later this morning laid a wreath at the Heroes Square in Maputo. He will later today attend a reception at Polana Hotel, also in Maputo. The president's delegation, which left Gaborone yesterday afternoon, comprise the first lady, Mrs Gladys Masire; the minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe; the senior private secretary to the president, Mr Modisi;

and the chief of protocol, Mr Bashi Kisine. The president and his delegation are expected back home later today.

BDP Delegation Returns From Visit to PRC

MB251721 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1610 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The Botswana Democratic Party [BDP] delegation to China, which was led by the party's chairman, Mr Peter Mmusi, has returned home. Interviewed by the BOTSWANA PRESS AGENCY at his office this morning, Mr Peter Mmusi described the trip as successful. He said both the BDP delegation and the Chinese Communist Party [CPC] appreciate each others system of government because they were based on circumstances of their countries. He further said that under democracy, Botswana has its main four national principles of democracy, self-reliance, unity, and development. Mr Mmusi also explained that China has its own four national principles being independence, non-interference, equality, and mutual benefit.

He said that the Chinese have expressed willingness to come to invest in Botswana because there is plenty of raw materials in the country which they could utilize for their industries. Mr Mmusi also disclosed that the CPC had donated two bicycles to the BDP. The bicycles have already been delivered while a tractor is still expected. During their stay in China, the BDP delegation visited Beijing, Jiangsu Province, Nanjing, (?Wuxi), and Shanghai. The BDP delegation was in China at the invitation of the CPC.

LESOTHO

Commentary Discusses RSA Links With Mokhehle

MB250950 Maseru Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Station commentary: "Focus on Mr Mokhehle's Bases on South African Soil"]

[Text] According to a news bulletin on Radio Lesotho, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a protest note to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa on Mr Ntsu Mokhehle's activities against Lesotho from South African soil.

It is worth recalling that last June, in a ministerial meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries, it was agreed that existing arrangements between Lesotho and South Africa had served the security interests of the two countries well, and that they should be maintained to express by concrete action mutual recognition that neither country should permit its territory to be used as a base of attacks on either state, or any neighboring country.

At the time, senior spokesmen of South Africa denied that Mr Ntsu Mokhehle and his LLA [Lesotho Liberation Army] were resident in South Africa, and that the planning and execution of acts of sabotage and subversion, calculated to achieve the overthrow of the king's government by Mr Mokhehle's faction of the BCP [Basotholand Congress Party], were conducted from South African soil. Despite conclusive evidence in the possession of the competent Lesotho authorities, the king's government interpreted South Africa's assurances as a signal of good faith and a spirit of neighborliness, and a guarantee that appropriate action would be taken by South Africa to put an end to acts of attack by LLA elements on Basotho staged from South African soil.

Against this background, and South Africa's sensitivity to the whole question of alleged use of springboards for attacks on herself, as shown by her military raids and incursions on capitals of neighboring states, reports of a new wave of acts of sabotage and subversion that Mr Mokhehle and his LLA gangs are planning to launch from bases in South Africa are disturbing, and defy any rational comprehension of South Africa's attitude.

The latest reports emanate from a meeting held in the South African Bantustan Qwa Qwa between Mr Mokhehle and certain highly placed Lesotho clergymen, who persist in embroiling the clergy in questionable initiatives under the guise of professing to be on a mission of political reconciliation within the country. The conclusive evidence of Mr Mokhehle's presence on South Africa's soil, and its boastful claims of responsibility for mounting campaigns of terror against Basotho from his hideout in South Africa, has put once more into question the sincerity of past South African denials of permitting the use of South African territory as a base for acts of aggression against a neighboring state, and constitute a serious challenge to the good faith of South Africa's assurances to Lesotho's foreign ministers in the past on this question.

The king's government is within its rights in demanding an explanation from the Government of South Africa because Lesotho is faithfully respecting the principle of good neighborliness, and assiduously carrying out its obligations to its neighbors to ensure that not even a square inch of its soil is used to mount attacks on its neighbors or any other state.

The clarification of its own attitude by South Africa is being awaited with immense interest and it is hoped that South Africa's response will contribute to cementing good neighborliness and the spirit of regional peace.

MALAWI

Banda Congratulates Machel on Mozambique Anniversary

MB251724 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda has sent a message of congratulations and best wishes to President Samora Machel of Mozambique on the occasion of that country's national day today. The message was released by the Ministry of External Affairs in Lilongwe. At this occasion, Malawi has been represented by a ministerial delegation led by the minister of transport and communications, Mr Wadson Deleza.

MOZAMBIQUE

Further on Anniversary Celebrations in Maputo

Machel Hosts Dinner

MB250945 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, last night attended a dinner hosted by the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Comrade Samora Machel, in Maputo. The dinner was hosted for five heads of state and government attending Mozambique's 10th anniversary celebrations.

During the day the delegates were shown some of the cultural heritages of Mozambique at a gala held in the capital. Today, President Machel will be presented with military honors and will later address a rally at Independence Square. In the afternoon the delegates will attend a reception to be hosted by Comrade Machel.

The Zimbabwe delegation will return home after the reception.

Iranian Delegation Visits

LD252108 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Parliamentary (Majlis) Affairs, Mr. Mir Mahdi met with the Mozambican minister of mineral resources, Abdul Magid Osman Monday. Mir Mahdi, leading an Iranian delegation arrived in Maputo Monday to attend the ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the independence of Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

Bomb Blast Injures 8 People in Oshakati

MB252011 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Eight people were injured in a bomb explosion in the auditorium at the Ongandiva training center near Oshakati today. The explosion occurred when pupils were leaving the auditorium after writing an examination. A statement by the territory force in Windhoek says a Russian-made explosive device was used in the incident. Although the building was seriously damaged, the eight casualties were discharged from hospital in Oshakati after they had been treated.

DIE WELT Inteviews Interim Government Chairman

DW251117 Bonn DIE WELT in German 25 Jun 85 p 5

[Interview with David Bezuidenhout, chairman of the Namibian transitional government, by correspondent Bernt Conrad in Windhoek — date not given]

[Text] *WELT*: Did the temporary government have a good start in Windhoek?

Bezuidenhout: Yes, the inauguration celebration has shown that we have the support of the country's majority.

WELT: Are you disappointed that all states except South Africa, even the Western states including the FRG, say that the temporary government is null and void and merely an instrument of South Africa?

Bezuidenhout: Yes, we are really very disappointed. We expected that at least the five Western contact group states (the United States, France, Great Britain, Canada, FRG) would show more objectiveness.

WELT: Do you attach importance to it to be recognized at least in the West as a legal government of Namibia/South-West Africa?

Bezuidenhout: Yes, we want to achieve that. However, if it is impossible, we will carry on — regardless whether we are recognized or not. One thing ought to be clear to everybody: We are not the instrument of South Africa or somebody else. We are only the instruments of the populace of our country. Whatever we will do, it will be always in the interest of the country and its people, and not to do a favor to South Africa.

WELT: That leads to the next question. Your aim is Namibia's independence. Is it supposed to be an internationally recognized independence, or don't you care about it at all?

Bezuidenhout: It is our aim to achieve international recognition. However, we do not want to achieve independence with ensuing quarrels and bloodshed. The main thing is that the living conditions of the majority of our people will be improved, and that one or the other still existing discrimination will be eliminated. What we want to achieve is national reconciliation, peace, and stability. When we will have achieved this, the independence problem will lose significance.

It is amazing that the world presses us with regard to independence. However, if the consequence of independence should be bloodshed and civil war, we will have to live with it. We want to do everything to achieve peaceful independence with international recognition.

WELT: Does the temporary government consider the UN Resolution 435 as a basis or even as the basis of Namibian independence?

Bezuidenhout: Yes, we have not rejected that. It is a basis. However, we want to be in a position to complement the resolution in order to do justice to the current situation. The situation has changed in the 7 years since the resolution has been adopted. We ourselves want to be part of the process. The United Nations must listen to us, so that we can outline our case and say what is not acceptable about this resolution. However, one does not want to grant us that.

WELT: In what way do you want to achieve independence? Through direct negotiations among those involved?

Bezuidenhout: We are prepared to negotiate with all interested parties to achieve peace and reconciliation.

WELT: The Federal Government rejects any contact with you. On the other hand, however, deputies of the Bonn government parties were present in your inauguration here in Windhoek, promising to support you. What do you expect or hope to come from Germany?

Bezuidenhout: It is contradictory if the Federal Government says that it does not want to have anything to do with us. However, we feel encouraged by the Bonn politicians' participation in our inauguration celebration. It is my personal opinion that they will be in a position to convince other important FRG politicians, and that some day the majority in Germany will believe our aims and intentions.

However, if the Federal Government is really concerned about South-West Africa, it can demonstrate it by rendering support prior to the independence. Several possibilities exist in this respect through organizations and institutions, such as for example with regard to schools and training places where our people can be trained to fill important posts after the achievement of independence.

WELT: Let us now discuss your domestic problems. Do you believe that the rotation priciple makes sense with regard to chairmanship in the Council of Ministers, which you have introduced, particularly if rotation should take place every 3 months?

Bezuidenhout: That is a very difficult problem. On the other hand, however, the parties that have gotten together first in the Multiparty Conference and now in the temporary government, have achieved mutual confidence. Therefore, I think that rotation does not matter. We do not want to create the impression that the temporary government is aiming for something like a permanent status. If we had a prime minister with more power than the rest of the cabinet, such an impression could have been created.

WELT: You yourself speak of a "government of national unity." Is it not a big problem for you that Peter Kalangula, an important Ovambo leader, refuses to cooperate with you? Do the Ovambos not represent more than 50 percent of the Namibian populace, thus forming one of the most important factors of your country?

Bezuidenhout: Yes, we would have liked Peter Kalangula to be among us. We have repeatedly invited all parties outside the Multiparty Conference. However, they did not react. We still keep the door open. On the other hand, I am not convinced that Kalangula is being supported by the majority of the Ovambos. We have the SWAPO Democrats among us, a party consisting mainly of Ovambos. We have also the DTA Ovambos, who are represented in the government.

WELT: Is that enough?

Bezuidenhout: No, you are right. However, we have not closed to door. We really want to achieve national unity and reconciliation.

WELT: Does an invitation to SWAPO still exist to take part in the government and in the National Assembly?

Bezuidenhout: We would not reject SWAPO. However, it would naturally have to be prepared to put the arms down.
WELT: It means that realistically, SWAPO participation can be expected only after the end of the war?

Bezuidenhout: Yes.

WELT: Will that be possible in a forseeable future?

Bezuidenhout: That is not impossible. There were talks on the Cape Verde islands with South Africa. However, SWAPO did not react to it positively. In the light of this experience, we adopted last Thursday a decision in which the United Nations and the interested parties are urged to convince SWAPO that military action should be discontinued. That is also vaild for South Africa. All should sit down at one table and negotiate on peace for Namibia.

WELT: Has there been any reaction to it yet?

Bezuidenhout: No,not yet.

WELT: In what time do you think you can achieve Namibia's full independence?

Bezuidenhout: To be frank, I think it could be the case in 2-3 years.

WELT: Is that not too optimistic?

Bezuidenhout: Maybe. But in principle I am conviced that we will be successful.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Gaborone Set To Discuss Ties

MB251711 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1702 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Gaborone, June 25, SAPA — Botswana and South Africa are to meet on a date still to be finalised to discuss their relationship which deteriorated following South Africa's June 14 raid on Gaborone.

The Botswana minister of foreign affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, announced the meeting at a press conference in Gaborone today.

The minister said: "we must keep on talking with a view to ending the war between ourselves."

She said although South Africa had agreed to a meeting on July 23, that date was still to be finalised.

Meeting on Freedom Charter Anniversary Banned

MB251610 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A mass meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter scheduled to have been held at Laudium near Pretoria tomorrow night has been banned. The banning order issued in Pretoria by the chief magistrate, Mr Harold Thompson, said there was reason to believe that the public peace would be seriously endangered by the meeting. The oan is effective from 1600 tomorrow afternoon until midnight on Thursday.

Police Say ANC Terrorists Controlled From Maseru

MB251140 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1137 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Pretoria, June 25, SAPA — The African National Congress "suicide squads" which security police claim have penetrated the Transvaal and Cape Provinces are being controlled from the capital of Lesotho as well as from Gaborone, according to police.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said today that information about the Maseru link had been obtained from a person arrested as a result of the South African military raid on the Botswana capital 11 days ago. He added that the arrest could lead to further arrests.

After the June 14 raid, security police said the "suicide squads" were trained in Gaborone, where ANC trainees were given weekend-long courses in activities such as throwing hand-grenades.

The activists usually came from Angola on their way to South Africa, they added.

ANC documents, a computer and a small cache of arms were seized during the military raid on nine houses and one office.

A western Cape "suicide squad" claimed responsibility earlier this month for the hand-grenade attacks on two coloured parliamentarians. Police said other squads were operating in the eastern Cape and Transvaal.

'Saboteurs' Blow Up Fuel Depot in Umtata

MB260636 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0634 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Umtata, June 26, SAPA — Saboteurs struck at a government fuel depot in Umtata early this morning, blowing up the installation and causing considerable damage, as yet undetermined, Capital Radio reported.

The Transkei-based independent station, in its morning news bulletins, quotes Transkei Police Chief General Leonard Kawe as saying police have established that a limpet mine was used in the attack at 2:15 am.

General Kawe said a second limpet mine was discovered a short time after the blast and safely defused. No injuries have been reported.

Capital Radio quotes Umtata residents as saying the force of the explosion rocked the capital, and plunged suburbs into darkness. Residents said a ball of flame leapt more than 500 metres into the air.

The Umtata depot is run by the Transkei Development Corporation, an agency of the Transkei government.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Further on Explosion

MB260754 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0847 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Umtata, June 26 SAPA — A bulk fuel depot in Umtata was completely wiped out and a major power station in the town knocked out by two blasts within minutes of each other early this morning.

The whole of Umtata was plunged into darkness as the first blast went off at 2:27 am. The nearby bulk fuel depot, storing hundreds and thousands of litres of fuel, also went up in flames. Six hours later the fire was still raging furiously as the local fire brigade tried to contain the blaze.

Hundreds of cars queued at petrol stations as early as 4 am in anticipation of a major fuel shortage. Fully armed members of the Transkei army and security police patrolled all petrol stations.

The authorities in Umtata could not immediately establish the cause of the two blasts, but the possibility of a terrorist attack could not be ruled out. The two installations were immediately cordoned off and the public was kept way by police and soldiers in camouflage uniforms.

The power station and fuel depot are both on the major road leading to the Vulindlela Height industrial complex, and workers had to walk long distances to get to work.

There were no reports of any casualties and only the charred remains of a petrol tanker and the twisted, smouldering ruins of the huge fuel storage tanks remained as fireman stood around watching the blaze burn itself out.

Limpet Mines Planted in Umtata

MB260922 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0900 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Our representative at Umtata reports that the massive fire which destroyed all the storage tanks at the fuel depot of the Transkeian Development Corporation this morning was caused by a limpet mine explosion.

In another limpet mine blast at Umtata, the town's electricity supply has been disrupted. The chief of the Transkeian security police, General Leornard Kawe, said that his men had found two other limpet mines in the town and had diffused them. No one was injured in the explosions. They occurred at about 2 o'clock this morning. The fire at the fuel depot took about 8 hours to extinguish.

Another Bomb Explodes

MB261313 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] There has been another bomb blast in Transkei. Police report an explosion near to the Umtata dam about 5km from the city. The water pipeline has been damaged disrupting water purification systems. The city engineer, K. Macmillan says the (?normal) system will be resumed around noon tomorrow. It is the third explosion today after blasts wrecked a fuel depot and a power station in Umtata early this morning. The [word indistinct] police have recovered three live limpet mines from the scenes of the blasts.